



Argo

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News Tidbits

>>IRAN---At the 86th Academy Awards, the winner for best foreign film went to the Iranian movie *A Separation*. The Iranian government has never acknowledged the much lauded film industry, but this particular victory garnered a positive reaction from the Iranian government: the state-run television praised the Academy for snubbing the Israeli film *Footnote*. The Iranian government went on to call this victory “the beginning of the collapse” of the Israeli influence in the United States. Israelis reacted by flocking to *A Separation*; one Israeli critic noted it was extremely well acted.

>>NEW JERSEY---State legislature was passed in 2010 which allowed for dispensaries of medical marijuana in New Jersey, but many towns in the state are denying such dispensaries' right to form. In addition, the state is preventing the sale of medical marijuana until certain safeguards are put into place to prevent recreational pot-smokers from getting their hands on the medication. One dispensary, the Greenleaf Compassion Center, could be open as soon as the end of this year, but frustration from some doctors over building an “entire program for an illegal product from the ground up” stands in opposition to the medical marijuana movement.

>>PETA often dominates the modern media with controversial advertisement campaigns on television, but recent documents, which instigated accusations, revealed that PETA actually causes the death of 95% of the animals it takes in, at least in Norfolk, VA, where out of 1,935 animals taken in by PETA, only 24 were placed—1,911 died. Following the release of this information, PETA critics have condemned the organization for concentrating more on its media campaigns rather than actually sponsoring the ethical treatment of animals. PETA responded by saying that the statistics were true, many of the animals it takes in are severely ill and injured, and PETA puts them down to ease their suffering.



THE MBTA MIGHT END UP CUTTING MANY OF THEIR LINES

Outrage Over the MBTA

By B. Kim, I
News Editor

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's proposal for a fare hike has been the cause of much outrage and controversy. While the MBTA has not raised fares since 2007, it is proposing an increase of up to 43 percent in order to compensate for the projected 161 million dollar budget gap and the antiquated train lines. Bus prices would rise from \$1.25 to \$1.75, while rapid transit prices would rise from \$1.70 to \$2.40.

Another possible scenario is an increase of 35 percent, where bus prices would rise from \$1.25 to \$1.50 and transit prices would rise from \$1.70 to \$2.25. In both cases, the MBTA ferries, E line and the commuter rail weekend services on the Mattapan Line would be eliminated, with the nighttime service ending at 10:00 P.M. With the slightly more tolerable 35 percent hike, however, a larger number of bus routes would have to be cut to make up for the small fare increase.

On Monday, February 13, over

400 transit riders, including Boston Latin School students, gathered to rally at the Copley branch of the Boston Public Library. Dozens stepped up to the microphones, attacking the proposal and asserting that these measures would be detrimental to students, the poor, the elderly and the disabled. "How much do you expect the poor to pay?" said Jane D'Angelo, age 47.

John Robinson, age 63, of Somerville does not drive due to vision-impairment. He stated that losing the weekend service on the commuter rail would mean that he could no longer visit his father at his assisted living facility in West Concord on the weekends. "That's cruel," he said.

At the hearing, attendees booed as Mark Boyle, assistant general manager for the development at the MBTA explained the financial dilemma that the agency had to face.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino testified against the proposed changes. He claimed that the changes would be harmful to both economic growth and Massachu-

setts's most vulnerable residents. "For many people, the T isn't their first or second transportation choice—it's their only choice," he said.

According to State Transportation Secretary Richard A. Davey, the MBTA is primarily funded by revenue from the state's sales tax and rider fares, with other revenue sources including advertising, federal grants and leasing arrangements from MBTA real estate holdings. However, "Relying on the sales tax is not a reliable way to fund the T," said Diane Simpson, 57, of Jamaica Plain.

Davey stated that these are consequences of the debt crisis, not poor management by the MBTA. He says that, in the long run, direct appropriation from the Legislature may generate more revenue for the T and that a 20 million percent surplus in the state's snow removal budget could be transferred to the MBTA as long as the weather permits over the coming weeks.

In April, the MBTA Board of Directors is scheduled to vote on the proposal.

Money in Politics

By JACOB METZ-LERMAN, II
Staff Writer

As many in South Carolina, Iowa, Florida and New Hampshire may have noticed, something is different about this election season: money. Never before have we seen so much money being spent on political campaigns.

A huge number of both positive and negative political advertisements—most of which are negative—have been charging up the primaries. It is evident that these political ads have also been changing the tide of the polls and Republican primaries. For example, Mitt

Romney fell behind Newt Gingrich after anti-Romney attack ads were blasted from televisions throughout South Carolina. Where are these ads coming from?

In 2010 the Supreme Court made possibly its most influential decision in present history. In the case, *Citizen's United v. the F.E.C.* (Federal Elections Commission), the Court ruled that independent political spending is an individual's speech and therefore should be subject to the First Amendment, which guarantees the freedom of speech. This ruling overthrew previous laws that limited the amount of money that Political Action Committees (PACs)

and individuals could independently spend on political ads, mailings, phone calls and events. This gave way to the new, powerful Super PACs.

Super PACs can be formed and registered by anyone who wishes to do so. Their sole purpose is to spend money, specifically on politics. Their greatest power is to spend unlimited amounts of money on political ads, mailings and events so long as they do not coordinate with the candidate(s) that they are supporting. Both individuals and corporations can give unrestricted amounts of money to the Super PAC they support.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Featured Club: The Ultimate Frisbee Club

The BLS Ultimate Frisbee club was founded in 2010 by Toni Jonas-Silver (II), Coby Werlin (II), Sydney Kyne (II) and Mara Wolkoff (II). The idea for the club taken from one particular day of the week—Frisbee Friday. Frisbee Friday is essentially what it sounds like: group members gather at the small field next to the Isabella Stewart Gardner museum and toss disks into the night. Usually two to three complete games of ultimate are played before everyone calls it a day. The club started with the idea of completely eliminating the stressful environment of BLS and replacing it with a high octane, adrenaline filled match of Ultimate Frisbee. After being split into two teams, players often thrust themselves about the field, and often find themselves splattered in mud. “One of the most important features,” says Wolkoff, “is that anyone is allowed to come to play some disk—no experience necessary.”

The UFC (not to be confused with the Ultimate Fighting Championship) has even played against the Newton North frisbee team this past November. Though the match resulted in a staggering loss, “not a single member of the team was found without a smile on their face,” says Werlin. “Everyone got a chance to work up a sweat on the field, and everyone had a great time.” Werlin also points to Brian “Narwhal” DuBois (V) to have scored one of BLS' only two goals, within only seconds of being put into the game. “Narwhal really showed that anyone, no matter their age, can come and have fun at frisbee,” spoke Werlin with a fatherly tone.

The UFC's leaders aspire to one day have a regular season where they play schools and compete regularly.

If you ever find yourself walking in the UFC's small field, don't feel hesitant to stop and play a game or two; you'll find that the members are warm and inviting to new comers, and are eager to share their love and knowledge of the game.

Editors’ Note

Dear Readers,

Mother nature might’ve disappointed us in the past few days, but the Argo is here to make your day a little better.

Open up the news section to read about the recent NHS inductees or the carnation sales that made moms all over Boston swoon. Flip over to A&E and catch up on our coverage of the Academy Awards and to learn why

Lydia Federico is infatuated with her Art History class. Want to know what your classmates have to say to the MBTA? Head over to Forum. Maybe you want to know why Google is stalking you and what you can do about it? Make your way to the science & technology section a few pages away. If you’re more of the sportier type, we’ve got you covered too: turn to the sports section and find out how the Wolfpack has been dominating winter sports in basketball, track,

swimming and hockey, among others. And of course, you can always stimulate your mind (read: succumb to distraction) with our crossword and sudoku puzzles.

If none of these fact-based contributions to the Argo seem to interest you, then we are sorry, because you are out of luck. Try the Register.

Your Editors-in-Chief,
Bobby and Dominick

MONEY IN POLITICS

Continued from page 1

With this huge reservoir of money waiting to be tapped, hundreds of Super PACs have been formed, each representing a different set of goals and/or candidates.

This is an entirely new game. We have seen a dramatic increase in money spent during campaigns. That money, however, is not being spent by the candidates. In 2010, the first year of the Super PACs’ existence, they collectively spent 90 million dollars. Even more impressive than that number is the fact that only 10 committees accounted for more than 75 percent of that 90 million. Two years later, the number of Super PACs increased from about 80 to 336. Although some of these 336 Super PACs are small, the number of million dollar Super PACs has doubled. Super PACs have spent 54 million dollars since this summer, when the race was kicked off with the Iowa Straw Poll. This is only the beginning. Their spending will only increase as we draw closer to the Republican nomination and the beginning of the general election. President Obama will presumably obtain monumental support from powerful Super PACs when he faces off against his Republican rival.

The top five Super PACs make up 81 percent of all the spending done by Super PACs. Furthermore, a small number of donors are supporting these committees. The largest of any Super PAC thus far, the pro-Romney Restore Our Future, has



THIS LITTLE POLITICAL CARTOON SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

raised 36 million dollars in donations from only 389 donors. These donations make up more than a third of all the money being spent by Super PACs. The next largest committee, which supports Gingrich, has raised 13 million dollars from only 123 people. Ten million dollars came from one married couple, the Adelsons. Super donors such as the Adelsons are spending millions of dollars to see their favorite candidates get elected. It leads us to ask the question: are just a few millionaires buying the election?

Proponents argue that, in fact, Super PACs have opened up politics. The Supreme Court felt that money is part of one’s speech because it is often spent to express oneself. To limit or get rid of Super PACs would be a violation of First Amendment rights, as the Supreme Court stated. Many argue that this money was

always in politics, but Super PACs allow for a more concentrated, more easily regulated piece of political spending. Supporters further argue that since we live in a democracy, money cannot buy elections or votes. While some millionaires are able to spend large amounts of money in favor of candidates, those candidates still may fall behind in the polls or not get elected. The Super PAC supporting Rick Perry was in the

top five spenders at its time, yet it could not save his campaign.

Many are still openly critical of the new Super PACs, their donors and the Supreme Court. They worry that far too much money is flooding the political system. Critics, such as the Occupy Wall Street protesters, believe that this is only strengthening the ties between government and the rich. They believe that rich individuals will be able to throw their money behind their favorite candidate and sway the election simply by flooding the airwaves with positive or negative ads as we saw in South Carolina. There is no doubt that this gives an advantage to people with money to spend. The question is: how big an influence they ultimately have on elections?

(All numbers courtesy of Center for Responsive Politics at Opensecrets.org)

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Petere Veritatem

The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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NEWS

NHS Sparks Controversy

By **MARA WOLKOFF, II**
STAFF WRITER

Each year, all members of Classes I and II, whether being inducted or not, are summoned into the auditorium to attend the National Honors Society (NHS) assembly in lieu of two class periods. (For those unaware, the Society is a national organization consisting of only the best and the brightest: students who receive both excellent grades and are active members of their communities.) So begins the prestigious atmosphere and tradition that comes along with NHS, and can only be expected of the Boston Latin School, which prides itself on its academic rigor and excellence. Some of this year's high points from February 15 included a patriotic Senior Band, which played between each portion and the keynote speaker, BLS alumnus Stephen Kurkjian, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, who procured the expected stories of his own time at BLS and the worthwhile nature of hard work.

Those being inducted into the Society were, of course, granted well-deserved praise, and those who were simply at-

tending gained a sense of relief. Many members of Class II had been warned previously by upperclassmen that had undergone the same thing about the amount of shame they would feel upon not being inducted. Diana Howat (II) commented, however, that "the build-up was much worse than the actual thing." In fact, from the audience, it appeared much like any other Boston Latin School assembly, complete with napping students and a few daring individuals scribbling responses to last night's homework, ready to face the wrath of teachers lined up and down the aisles. In all honesty, it was not easy to find opinions on the assembly itself, as many responded to my questions by saying, "I wasn't awake for much of it."

For those who listened intently to the many speeches and exclamations directed toward their peers, discussion was agitated over the following few days. Most felt that the purpose of the assembly was, in part, to urge them to work harder in order to gain future entry themselves. On the contrary, Ms. Greaves, head of the Boston Latin School NHS, described the assembly as "a nice way for students to support their peers and congratulate

them on a job well done." Some students commented, nevertheless, that rather than feeling the expected pride for their friends, the assembly resulted in feelings of inadequacy, and the underlying direction of the assembly did not go unnoticed. "It's not the ceremony; it's the way they want us to feel because of it," Howat remarked. As the administration commented, these are the students that make them proud. Does this underlying purpose really exist, or is it simply just a misunderstanding? If just that, what are the unintended consequences.

Induction into NHS is not the only pressure that students feel to achieve a high grade point average by any means possible, and the unfortunate consequence of such pressure is the temptation to cheat, which many admit to succumbing to. Of course, no one in BLS supports such a culture, yet the subject is prevalent. "I was mostly just frustrated," Ariana Ule (II) remembered, "I know multiple people who walked across that stage who earned that GPA by cheating on exams almost daily." And then there are those who go by their work honestly and feel that they are doing their best, at

least for the time being. "It's not about working hard," one junior added. "I stay up late every night doing homework. I deactivated my Facebook. I do extracurriculars. But I don't have a 3.7 GPA, so my work isn't recognized." Due to the nature of the school, or any school for that matter, we are all expected to maintain high intellectual integrity, yet many of those who continue to be praised have failed to live up to the high expectations, according to Ule.

Induction into NHS is known throughout the country as being a highly prestigious honor, yet the selection process—or at least this year's method—is not half so esteemed. Anyone who meets the GPA requirements has traditionally received an application, but some juniors claim that they were not even given the chance to apply, due to their lack of logging volunteer hours, while others were accepted without any hours being logged. Though the Society is a place for those who have completed quality work to receive the praise they deserve, speculation and controversy stirred by the student body have overshadowed such attempts at praise.

Final Four in GOP

By **MIKE SKERRETT, III**
STAFF WRITER

And then there were four. For months now, a pool of Republican candidates that included Rick Perry, Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Jon Huntsman and even Donald Trump have sparred over who will get the chance to oppose President Obama in the 2012 elections. Currently, only Ron Paul, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Mitt Romney remain. It will not be over quickly. They have all pledged to remain in the race until the end, so it is sure to be a long year.

During the last three years of the Obama administration, there has been a lot of discontent among House Republicans, who disagree with many of his policies and have yet to see the "Change" that he promised during his campaign. Therefore, under no circumstances will it be an easy re-election. With an average approval rating of 49 percent according to a Rasmussen poll, Obama falls behind

the average presidential approval rating, which is 54 percent, dating back to Harry Truman. His presidency has been a rocky one, apparently falling in and out of the public's graces over the past four years. It seems that the majority of Americans want a President who can lead the country out of this economic recession and help add jobs; in many voters' eyes, Obama has not done that.

While those who oppose Obama agree that someone else needs to be in office come 2013, they disagree on whom exactly that should be. Although news outlets have been declaring the front-runner to be someone new every couple of weeks, nobody has taken, or held, a commanding lead over the rest of the candidates. Newt Gingrich, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum have all held leads, with Ron Paul getting the support of a small, but devoted fan base.

Currently, Romney and Santorum are the top two candidates, but neither has won consistently in the polls. Mitt Romney won the California primary,

beating Santorum by six percent. On the other hand, Santorum beat Romney in the Pennsylvania primary by 29 percent. At press time, Mitt Romney led with 104 pledged delegates over Santorum's 36, but by no means is it a clear-cut race. When the Republican National Convention comes and it is time to choose the Republican candidate, the party will need to rally around their choice completely or else be too divided to stand a chance against the united Democrats.

For a party that needs to agree on one candidate in mere months, there is a considerable amount of mud-slinging occurring in this race. ABC News reports that about 50 percent of the campaign ads in the 2012 race have been negative compared to eight percent in 2008. Ken Goldstein, the president of the Campaign Media Analysis Group, said, "This is the most negative campaign ever." Perhaps this is not the fault of the candidates.

Another major player in the GOP race has been the candidates' Super

PACs. Although there are limits on the amount of money one can donate to the candidate himself, his Super PAC can take an unlimited amount of money and put that toward supporting the candidate, as long as the candidate and the Super PAC do not coordinate with each other in any way. Often, however, the Super PACs are led by people close to the candidates. For example, Restore Our Future, Mitt Romney's affiliated Super PAC, was founded by Romney aides, and its treasurer is the former general counsel for Romney's 2008 campaign.

With each candidate pulling out all the stops in this race, it is a wonder that the party remains so indecisive. Perhaps it is because of how negative the races have become. As increasing amounts of half-truths and misrepresentations are portrayed in the media, voters will be more and more undecided. So with eight months to go until the general election, only one thing is for sure: it is going to be a bumpy ride.

Fred...Who?

By **MARCELLA CARUSO, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On March 23, 2011, Fred Karger announced his candidacy for President of the United States. Almost a year later, he is finally gaining some publicity. His path to the White House differs dramatically from his Republican counterparts who only spend their total budgets (five to six million dollars) on a few television campaign ads. Self-described as the "anti-Romney" candidate, Karger has also gained traction as the first openly gay man to ever run for president.

A member of the Log Cabin Republicans (a conservative gay organization), he declared the goal of his campaign: to "open up" the Republican Party and to send a message to young and gay people. He also wants to provide an alternative to voters who might otherwise have voted for Mitt Romney or even Barack Obama. "I am appealing number one to Obama supporters," Karger said, which is "a little unethical, a little unprecedented strategy

for a Republican." Karger has historically been liberal on many issues such as same-sex marriage, Don't Ask Don't Tell, abortion and full gender equality. He even supported Hillary Clinton in the 2008 primaries.

Karger's current focus is Michigan's 8th Congressional district, home to Michigan State University, where he is spending a lot of time on campus, talking to students and trying to win the young college vote. Part of his campaign to combat his anonymity, is his new slogan: "Fred Who?" Part of the problem is his lack of support from conservative groups such as Fox News and the American Conservative Union who have denied him a seat at debates and conventions. "You know, had I gotten on an earlier debate, things might have been very different," Karger said, "because there is this lack of cohesion around a certain candidate. So I'm hopeful that still as the field narrows that I could get into a debate, and then everything would change." As for Karger's goals in office, he has big hopes for improving America's education system,

immigration system, equality, energy independence, LGBTQ rights and particularly the economy. "Ronald Reagan was the ultimate optimist," he said, "he basically talked us out of the last recession, and I want to bring that kind of optimism back."

Fred Karger is no stranger to politics and in 2008, founded Californians Against Hate, a gay rights group that monitored major donations against gay marriage in California. He also served as Executive Vice President to Dolphin Group, a strategic public affairs firm for 27 years. During that time, he worked on the campaigns of California Governor George Deukmejian, Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb and the presidential campaigns of Senator Robert Dole, Senator Paul Laxalt, Governor John Connally and Senator Charles Percy, among dozens of others.

Apart from a recent National Public Radio interview and a few yard signs and bumper stickers, Fred Karger is a basically an unknown candidate. This, however,



FRED KARGER, THAT'S WHO!

does not seem to faze the retired political consultant, who knows he is more than a long shot and realizes his strategy is unconventional. "It's done in a very strategic way," he said, "we do everything the big campaigns do, but we just do it on a much smaller scale."

News

A Restless Syria

By MICHAEL MURRAY, II
STAFF WRITER

The Arab Spring of 2011 is looking to continue itself into the spring of 2012 in the Middle Eastern state of Syria. Over the course of the past year, peaceful pro-democracy protests and demonstrations have turned into a violent full-fledged civil war. International focus had previously fallen upon similar movements in Egypt and Libya, where resources of a pro-freedom and pro-democracy coalition were utilized. While Syria had been viewed as secondary, it has now made itself a primary concern for the international peacekeeping community.

The United States has condemned the regime led by President Bashar al-Assad of Syria. He has used excessive force throughout the movement, from treating protests with strong aggression to even shelling his own cities. It is a situation very similar to that in Libya, where Moammar Gadhafi was using violent force against his own people. While the United States is strongly against this type of conduct, it is in no position to lead another ground war. U.S. troops are already committed to Afghanistan and other terrorist hotspots, as well as a potentially growing threat in nearby Iran. Because of the U.S.'s lack of involvement in the conflict, the international community is looking to an armed



SYRIAN PROTESTORS HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THE REGIME

coalition potentially led by a major European nation.

Within the nation, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), created in July 2011, is waging combat against the loyalist government forces. Led by Colonel Riad al-Assad, the Free Syrian Army is primarily comprised of defecting soldiers of the Syrian Army. According to their leader, they gain about 100 members each time that a successful attack is carried out. While the exact number of soldiers is unknown, there are

estimates that place the total ranks at around 40,000 men. There are also reports that there are numerous self-armed civilians who are members of the FSA. Based out of Turkey, they participate in guerilla-style attacks on the Syrian Army as well as urban infantry fighting. A major concern is the mechanized tank units of the Syrian Army, as the FSA has no armored or aviation battalions to counter this threat.

Another growing issue for the civil-

ians in Syria is obtaining resources. In the city of Homs, food and medical supplies are at a critical low. In an attempt to alleviate the situation, the International Red Cross is trying to broker a cease-fire between the two factions, to allow for the distribution of food, water and medical treatment. As supplies decrease, there is a growing suspicion of a large-scale ground attack against the already weakened city. The Syrian Army has been conducting a siege on Homs for the past two weeks, and a number of tanks and armored vehicles have been reported to be en route to the embattled city.

The Arab League, a collection of Middle Eastern states, has been an active participant in the situation. It has been trying to cease the violence, but it is in support of the resisting faction. The League has been seriously considering the potential option of arming the rebelling Syrians. It hopes that this will allow for a "level-playing field" and possibly fewer civilian casualties. Since the beginning of the uprising, there have been almost 10,000 deaths. At the moment, the goal of the rebels is the removal of the current administration. A potentially long and bloody struggle may lie ahead.

BLS Hosts US Senator Forum

By ALICE XIAO, III
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On January 31, 2012, Boston Latin School students had a special visit from two Democratic U.S. Senate candidates, Marisa DeFranco and Jim King. Organized by Ms. Elliott's AP Government students, this meet and greet event provided an up-close look at the political scene and the candidate's policies.

Brandon Finn (I), who helped organize the event, was especially excited about it. "It's a good experience for people who are unfamiliar with the candidates."

As the public eye is generally focused on the upcoming GOP elections, other elections may fall out of the spotlight. The Massachusetts Senate race, however, with well-known candidates Senator Scott Brown and Elizabeth Warren running, is also highly publicized. Although these two giants have an advantage in big names, the two grassroots candidates, DeFranco and King, may have something in their policies. The two are both successful lawyers that have their own firms, with DeFranco practicing in

Middleton and King in Boston.

This forum covered a broad range of topics that youth would generally be interested in, as opposed to more economic issues. Although the candidates have probably focused on developing fiscal policies in the past, they both showed clear opinions on topics from immigration to the Occupy movement. Finn says that "they took questions dead-on and didn't try to shortcut anything."

DeFranco, an immigration lawyer, wholeheartedly supports immigration and would like to address the illegal immigration problem by reforming the North American Free Trade Act. King thinks similarly, albeit a fine in his plan that would be placed on the illegal immigrant before citizenship. They both say that our borders should be open, and point out that unless one is Native American, all Americans are immigrants.

Neither candidate has taken any money from Political Action Committees (PACs), which supports their stand on grassroots campaigning. King does not approve of the so called "Super PACs", and says that "corporations should not be

able to contribute unlimited amounts of money to any campaign."

DeFranco, however, made a point in saying that if she believed in the cause, she wouldn't have a problem taking money from PACs.

Another issue the candidates touched upon was gay rights. DeFranco is a definite supporter for gay rights, as she actively advocates for same-sex marriage and rights. King also agrees, but is more moderate; he does not condone it, but he will not condemn it.

The two also answered questions about the war in Iraq. In DeFranco's opinion, the U.S. needs to get out and effectively cut military spending. King says that it is time to end the war, but the U.S. still needs to keep a strong military.

A more recent topic that was discussed was the new piracy acts. Both candidates are against the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (PIPA). In their view, it was horribly written legislation.

They also agree in support for the Occupy movement, but acknowledge that there is some chaos and corruption in it.

"Protest in the streets is American," said DeFranco.

After discussing these topics for two hours, the two also explained the democratic process for the U.S. Senate. In Massachusetts a candidate needs 10,000 signatures from registered Democrats to be put on the ballot. So far there are no certified candidates although James King, Marisa DeFranco and Elizabeth Warren are all campaigning.

After asking questions about these topics, and being answered by the candidates, students felt more politically involved and had increased interest in their local leader's policies. Finn says that he learned a lot from it and was "happy that the candidates themselves addressed the issues." It was certainly a unique opportunity. The candidates also had an opportunity to promote their campaign and reach out to younger voters.

For those who enjoyed the event, this is the first in a series of planned forums with more candidates. "Scott Brown has shown a lot of interest for this March," says Finn. "The main goal is a debate next fall at BLS."

Valentine's Day Lovin'

By ALEC MACNEIL, II
NEWS EDITOR

This Valentine's Day season, the Argo once again gave lovers everywhere a vehicle to express their deepest feelings to one another: carnations. Sales of the carnation slips took place during lunch, homeroom and most frequently in secret during classes. Carnations have always been in sold in years prior in great numbers, but this year proved to be the year most filled with love: over 5,000 carnations were sold and delivered in total, generating the Argo lots of money in profit, which will go towards aiding the high costs of printing future issues of the Argo at the Harvard Crimson. To put these numbers into perspective, there were enough carnations sold so that each

student at BLS could have at least one. In terms of spreading the holiday romance, the Argo helped to plaster ooey-goey romantic smiles on the faces of myriads of students and teachers.

A significant number of the carnations were sent to single individuals—as many as thirty or even sometimes forty inflated the number of carnations being sent to each homeroom. There was also an uncharacteristically large amount sent to various teachers around the school. Buyers also showed much more vigor in purchasing valentines for their friends or special someones; I personally found myself running out of carnations to sell after just a few class periods. While organizing the carnations the Monday before February 14, the Argo staff managed to sort the flowers and slips within just three

hours, beating last year's staff by almost half the time.

Besides the aforementioned broken records, one student received approximately 158 carnations. In no single year since the inception of carnations into the Argo's agenda has any student received a number of carnations even close to the amount that this one philanderer found lying in a small mountain atop his desk in homeroom 136. If you're wondering who this man is, you need look no further than the third string of the DCL championship boy's hockey team: Joseph Lorenzo Petruzzello.

A large group of Joe's friends started this previously unheard of phenomenon and pooled money together to buy Joe as many carnations as they could afford in the two-week period that carnations were

being sold. "The plan was pretty simple," says Neil Tranford (II). "We asked everyone that knew Joe at any point of his life for money. We even asked people who had no idea who Joe was and never met them for money to buys some for Joe and they coughed up some serious dough. Then we bought carnations with them from whoever we knew that was selling them." Joe has received a large number of carnations in years prior except in tenth grade when "he was kind of mean," asserts hockey teammate Greg Penella (II).

All in all, this was a record breaking year for the Argo. With over 4,000 carnations sold this year, and with someone receiving the most anyone has ever been sent, everyone here at the Argo is looking forward to breaking the new record next Valentine's Day.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Drones in US Skies

BY ALEX YUAN, II
STAFF WRITER

Drones, once only used by the military, are now allowed to fly in the United States under the control of commercial and government operators.

These unmanned aerial vehicles are in demand from many groups, including law enforcement agencies, journalists, real-estate agents and even film makers. Several groups, however, are criticizing this change as unsafe and as a potential invasion of privacy.

Until now, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has upheld a ban on all unmanned vehicle flights in the United States except for recreational flights. Those who wished to do so needed to file a waiver with the FAA. Even if the FAA granted permission, it still placed heavy restrictions in many cases. But several weeks ago, Congress passed a law stating that the FAA will lift the previous restrictions. In 90 days, the FAA is required to allow government agencies, including law enforcement, to fly drones as long as they weigh under 4.4 pounds, are within sight of the operator, are flown in daylight, stay under 400 feet in altitude and are used away from airports. The bill also requires that the FAA make regulations allowing for the flight of larger drones by 2015. At the moment, the market for drones is estimated to be several billion dollars and is expected to rise over the next few years.

Right now, the largest market for unmanned aircrafts is with law enforcement

agencies. There are more than 19,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. Drones can be used by police in many ways, such as surveillance platforms to provide intelligence for operations like raids, drug seizures or fires. They can also be used to monitor accident and crime scenes, negating the need for a manned helicopter, which can cost up to ten times more than a moderately sized drone.

Journalists can use drones to gather information and footage of events such as riots, protests and natural disasters, while reducing the need for journalists to put themselves in danger. Real estate photographers also use drones to help them sell property. Aerial photographs and movies of luxury houses and the neighborhoods surrounding them attract buyers and give them an advantage. Filmmakers and cinematographers can use drones to capture unique and continuous shots, such as an indoor shot that moves outside and up into the sky. These shots would have previously required expensive and complicated equipment, such as cranes and manned helicopters.

Among the vast sea of potential users and supporters of drones are the detractors. A major problem concerning drones is their safety. Since drones have never been used in mainstream aviation, there are few rules and laws regulating their proper use. People, such as air traffic controllers and aviation experts, fear that a sky filled with drones could become hazardous to aircrafts. If a drone, even a small one, is sucked into a jet engine, it would most likely cause engine failure and damage the aircraft. An airplane hitting a



BUILT BY CYBERDYNE

drone could puncture the fuselage, causing damage inside and outside the aircraft.

Either of these could potentially bring down an aircraft. Another potential hazard is a drone going out of control and crashing, placing people on the ground in danger. Critics want drone operators to be properly licensed, saying that only a pilot with an instrument rating, which is a level above a standard pilot's license, should set safety standards for unmanned aerial vehicles which so far have been unregulated.

Another concern that critics have regarding drones over American skies is the potential invasion of privacy. Some people fear that drones could be used to conduct illegal surveillance on people without their

knowledge, turning the United States into a society where anyone can be monitored by government agencies. Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union are asking the government to enact laws that protect Americans from aerial surveillance. Law enforcement agencies have responded to such criticisms by mentioning that drones would only be used to watch criminal activities. They also pointed out the fact that almost anyone with a camera phone could do the same. In fact, almost anyone could hire a helicopter or a small plane and take pictures of a subject with a camera. So while using drones in the US has its obvious advantages, their use also comes with intense controversy.

Changes in Design

BY JOHN ZHANG, IV
STAFF WRITER

Google, a company that is synonymous with the internet, is now putting into effect design changes for some of their most popular services including Gmail and Chrome. Since the company debuted in 1998, Google has become an international search giant that is unrivaled in the industry. As a testament to its popularity, Google has made its way into the dictionary as a verb that means "to use the Google search engine to obtain information" or "googling." As of 2011, according to ComScore, Google receives over one billion unique visits per month! Personally, as a huge supporter and seasoned veteran of Google products and services (having joined Gmail since its public debut in 2007 and downloaded Chrome when it was still in beta in 2008), I have to express my disappointment in the recent design changes that Google has enacted. Google claims that the reason behind the new changes is to work toward three design principles: focus, elasticity and easiness to give the user a "seamless and consistent" experience. As Kevin Fox, one of the leading user experience designers of today and a former Senior User Experience Design Lead at Google, points out, although the new site layouts may look more sleek and modern, the new design lacks the familiarity for old users and shuns new users with its steep learning curve and is possibly a step in the wrong direction. The first problem of the new design is the removal of the "+" from the "new tab" button in the tab bar, introduced some time during Chrome 16. Although it is only a very minor tweak that old users (who already have a mental model of earlier Chrome versions) might not even notice, the new users coming from outdated browsers may not recognize the button's functionality. Another

major flaw of the new design is the new Gmail layout. Gmail is one of the most popular email services in the world with 350 million users and was recently given a brand new layout claiming to be more "seamless and consistent." It consists of a sparser and simpler user experience, but loses its previous friendly and intuitive appearance.

Gmail often boasts its Conversation View, which was originally designed by Fox and presented replies to emails in a note card fashion, a visual metaphor of a "new-stuff-first" list. This original model was intuitive and worked extremely well. Users immediately understood how to use it, but the new Conversation View lacks the friendly, easy-to-use nature that the original had. In the new design, replies are represented by boxes that are grayed out when closed and white when open. This, coupled with the strain on your eyes, can make it very hard to discern where one reply stops and another begins. Luckily, Gmail gives users the option to choose between the old layout and the new one.

The last problem with the new design is that clicking on the logo does nothing. This is absolutely absurd as this is a convention of the internet that far predates Google. If the property logo is clicked on a web page, then it should always take the user to the top level of that web site. As Fox explains it, Audi wouldn't just start manufacturing gearshifts on the left side of the driver in order to be consistent with the rest of Audi's cars, even if the country it is sold in drives on the right side of the road. Personally, I agree with Fox and I think the best possible solution would be to continue giving users the option to choose the layout they prefer. Ultimately, only time will tell if these changes are a step in the right direction. Do you like the new changes in design? Keep an eye open when you next visit Google.

Taser's Mini Camera

BY RICHARD FU, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Taser International, the Scottsdale, Arizona, company well-known for its stun guns, has developed a mini camera called the AXON (Autonomous eXtended on-Officer Network), which clips onto the collar or sunglasses of an officer and records up to two hours of footage. This footage can then be transferred via a docking station to a local machine and may then be stored in Taser International's cloud-computing evidence management system.

Taser International has had its fair share of controversies over its electric-shock guns, which are used by 17,000 of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States. Although the electric-shock gun is sold as a non-lethal weapon, its safety has been repeatedly questioned. Fears concerning the Taser gun remain, despite Taser International's claim that it is safer than nightsticks or guns, but AXON is one way to quell the fears.

Taser International has already mounted some 55,000 mini cameras on tasers. The camera is triggered when the gun is drawn. With the push of a button, the AXON goes into "live" mode and can retrieve the previous 30 seconds of a buffered video. This ensures that situations are not only recorded after activation but also prior to events being recorded. With support from video recordings, police can justify their use of force in court and the public.

The purpose of this, says Taser International's co-founder and chief executive Rick Smith, is to provide defense against the many complaints from the public about Tasers. He says, "Police spend 2 billion to 2.5 billion dollars a year paying off complaints about brutality. In addition, people plead out when there is a video." A testament to this benefit is the video clip that showed Sgt. Brandon Davis killing Eric Wayne Berry after telling Mr. Berry to drop his gun multiple times. With this video evidence, Sgt. Davis

was speedily cleared from court. This also helped refute Ms. Berry's claims that her husband was holding a cell phone not a gun.

Taser's cloud evidence system resides on Amazon.com's remote cloud storage service which means that the videos can be tagged and labeled for record keeping. The software has editing abilities to protect the identities of people captured on video, such as victims of child sex crimes or undercover officers. The video cannot be deleted while in the camera, although the officer can choose whether to turn his camera on or off. Mr. Smith thinks it is unlikely that an officer would choose to leave the camera in off mode, because the video can clear law-abiding officers.

People such as Hadi Partovi, an Internet capitalist on Taser's board, agree with the implementation of the camera and say, "When people know they are on camera, they act like better citizens." Mr. Smith backs up this notion with the claim, "That goes for law enforcement officers, too. We have more cameras on cops than anyone else." Jay Stanley, a policy analyst with the speech, privacy and technology project at the American Civil Liberties Union, was enthusiastic about the prospect of body cameras on law officers.

Taser International hopes to help law enforcement agencies achieve the cost savings that cloud computing has provided for business and industry. Taser says that the cloud product does not require the cost of an information technology professional on the police department's payroll. This prevents losses from poor storage of disks and tapes, loss of evidence or evidence alteration.

The company will charge clients based on the amount of data stored and the volume of customer support. This system could cost a small company a few thousand dollars per year or several hundred thousand dollars per year for a large police force. Taser is initially offering the first year of service for free to attract customers. The AXON sells for 1000 dollars with a battery that lasts for 14 hours.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY Apocalypse 2012



NOT A SINGLE FORD TO BE SEEN...

BY ANTON XUE, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

We have all heard the rumor that the world will end on December 21, 2012, but what is so significant about this date? The date marks the end of a 5,125-year-long-cycle in the Mesoamerican Long Count calendar. This was a calendar system used by Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican cultures, most notably the Mayans.

So how does this date relate

to the end of the world? According to the Popol Vuh, a compilation of creation accounts by the Mayans, the gods first created three unsuccessful worlds before making humanity on the fourth attempt. The previous three worlds all ended after 13 b'ak'tuns, or approximately 5,125 years, so therefore the fourth must also end after this time. The Long Count's "zero" date is set on August 11, 3114 B.C. of the Gregorian calendar, which means that humanity will supposedly meet its doom on De-

cember 21, 2012. "There is a suggestion that Armageddon would overtake the degenerate peoples of the world and all creations on the final day of the 13th b'ak'tun," writes Michael D. Coe in his 1966 book, *The Maya*. "Thus our present universe would be annihilated in December 2012 when the Great Cycle of the Long Count reaches completion."

The theory that apocalyptic events are to happen on this date has gained hype in recent years as this "fateful" date approaches, to the point where a

movie was created in an attempt to cash in on the excitement. Various interpretations of this date include theories of human extinction, a "solar maximum" (a collision with a black hole) and some physical or spiritual transformation among the human race. This prediction, however, is not exclusive to the Mayan calendar. In India, the guru Kalki Bhagavan has suggested 2012 to be the deadline for human enlightenment since at least 1998. Some followers of Hinduism believe Bhagavan to be the final reincarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu, whose ninth reincarnation marks the end of the world. The ancient Sumerians also had an apocalyptic view for the 21st century, predicting that a planet named "Nibru" would collide with Earth in the year 2003 of the Gregorian calendar. Sumerians believed that the planet Nibru was the twelfth planet in our solar system and was the "heaven" in which the gods resided. This prediction, however, has proved itself wrong because you are currently reading this article.

In addition, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has stated, "If Nibru was real and headed for an encounter with Earth, astronomers would have been tracking it for at least a decade, and it would be visible to the naked eye by now." Despite all the craze and theories in recent years, NASA assures us that, "Nothing bad will happen to the Earth in 2012. Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than four billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threats associated with 2012." Can we really trust NASA this time? Let's wait until December 21 to find out.

Should Textbooks be Replaced?

BY JAKE ZHANG, II
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

As much as the common textbook has been the enduring symbol of academics, it has also been the subject of controversy. Changing curriculums require new editions every three to four years and prices for newer publications have been steadily rising. Textbooks are frequently lost, stolen, or damaged and are not easily replaced. The content itself varies with the publication company, but a few textbooks including the infamous A.P. United States History book *The American Pageant* (which has approximately one pun for every paragraph of text) leaves much to be desired. Why, in this age of the internet and other electronic resources, do we still cope with heavy and antiquated textbooks? Why has education not embraced technologies like eReaders and online textbooks?

Textbooks are quickly outdated and are expensive to update. The newest editions that are published periodically contain little new information, and according to Harvard economics chair James K. Stock, serve mostly to raise revenue for struggling publication companies. The newest edition of most

textbooks is on average 12 percent more expensive than its predecessor. World history does not change much, if at all, and yet schools still purchase hundreds of new world history textbooks every few years. Christopher Columbus still landed in America in 1492, whether the textbook was published in 1995 or in 2025. Certain textbooks, however, do need to be updated frequently, such as the second half of *The American Pageant*. This can be remedied by several open-content sources such as Wikibooks, which offers thousands of books that are updated frequently and free of charge. Teachers might hesitate to assign reading from a textbook that anyone can edit; any edit to Wikibooks textbooks, however, requires a lengthy review process from several experts in that field. Having many experts write and edit an open-content textbook is less likely to be biased, especially in subjects like history.

Textbooks are heavy and can be stolen or abused. The solution to this would be eReaders such as Amazon's Kindle and Barnes & Nobles' Nook. *The American Pageant*, for example, is priced at 90 dollars, while Barnes & Nobles' Nook e-reader is priced slightly more at 100 dollars. The Nook

can store up to a thousand books, so all the textbooks from a student's courses could be stored in one device. Critics have panned replacing textbooks with eReaders by claiming that eReaders such as the Nook are expensive to lose. The cost, however, to the school of losing one eReader is just the same as losing a textbook and that is not considering if the student chooses to purchase his or her own eReader. Others have complained that eReaders are potentially distracting because they can be connected to the internet. Whether or not eReaders can connect to the internet depends on the school's internet policy, but it should also be pointed out that students are currently allowed to use laptops in Boston Latin School with use of the internet.

There are several reasons why public schools have not embraced technology to replace textbooks. In general, public schools are slow to change. The mere thought of replacing ink and paper books with electronic gadgets might outrage some conservatives, especially those who want to see their donation or tax dollars put into good use. Some public schools don't trust their students to be responsible with expensive technology, especially in inner-city schools

where updated textbooks are needed the most. Private schools have been quick to adapt to changing technologies mostly because they have more funding and more trust in their students. The major reason why BLS in particular will not be able to adopt eReaders anytime soon is because of the traditions that ground us in conservative education. While our curriculum has changed over the course of centuries, our teaching methods and educational infrastructure remain mostly untouched. Replacing textbooks with digital readers would be a breach in tradition, alienating our older alumni (and their donations). At the moment, it does not seem worth it to abandon our time-honored schooling from a financial perspective as well. The money we receive from alumni far exceeds the money we might save by replacing textbooks with eReaders. The scholarship pool for the class of 2012 is estimated to be about 800,000 dollars. Much of this money comes from alumni, and a major breach in tradition might discourage donations and shrink this pool even more. So while replacing textbooks with eReaders might be beneficial from a long-term perspective, in the short-term it would be detrimental to our seniors and financial stability.

SciTech Tidbits

>>In March 2011, Billy Cohn and Bud Frazier from the Texas Heart Institute successfully replaced the heart of a dying patient with a device they invented. Their artificial heart provides continuous flow of blood, eliminating the lub-dub that a normal heart makes. As a result, the patient lived for five weeks in perfect

health, albeit without a pulse. (Popular Science)

>>Scientists at the CERN particle physics laboratory in Geneva discovered an error in their experiment that suggested that neutrinos, subatomic particles, can travel faster than the speed of light. A loose fiber-optic cable and errors in the GPS system that recorded the time that it took for the neutrinos particles to

travel from Italy to Switzerland are likely culprits behind the error, which led many scientists to question Einstein's Theory of Relativity that stated that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. Now that errors have been found in CERN's experiment, Einstein's theory might still stand true. (NPR)

>>China developed a genetic algorithm for drones to hunt submarines. In an

article published in the *Advanced Materials Research* journal, China proposed a method using sonar buoys and drones running genetic algorithms that use "evolution" to narrow down a range of possibilities into a few potential candidates, to hunt submarines underwater. What China intends to do with this new anti-submarine strategy is still in question. (Popular Science)

FORUM

Our Wallets Can't Take the Test

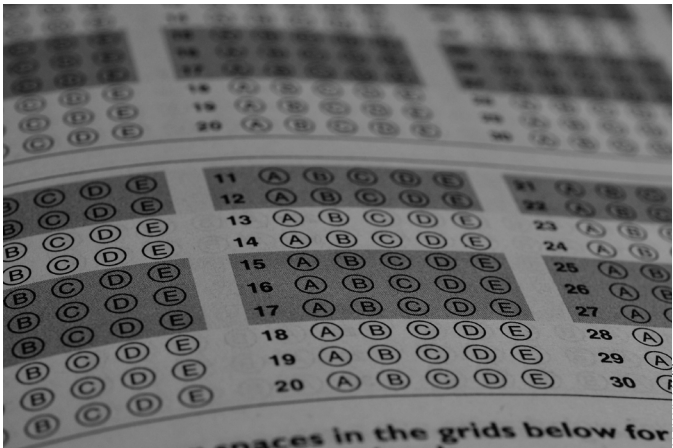
By **MICHAEL SITCAWICH, II**
STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows that the college process is a nightmare. Perhaps the most disconcerting part of the process, however, is its cost. Left and right, hundreds of dollars are spent not only applying to potential universities, but taking tests that most colleges require from prospective students in order to become eligible for acceptance. The College Board is the nonprofit organization that arranges these expensive tests, including the Scholastic Assessment Test, Advanced Placement exams and SAT subject tests. The most costly of them all, however, is the AP test.

Currently, students taking AP courses at Boston Latin School are required to pay 97 dollars for each AP exam, unless a student is entitled to the free or reduced lunch, in which case that student pays only 10 dollars. Putting aside the enormous difference in price, any exam that costs 97 dollars is ridiculous. The fact that these tests cost nearly 100 dollars for the majority of students is astounding, especially because many students take more than one AP class per year. Furthermore, the AP bump is incorporated only if a

student in an AP class takes the exam at the end of the year. Thus, students really have no choice. Nearly every AP student takes their respective AP tests—and pays the nonsensically high cost.

Nowhere on the College Board website does it state why the price for these exams is so high, which is upsetting. It provides details about fee reductions, but it does not explain how the collected money is actually spent. I had to email an AP contact that the website suggests students and parents get in touch with for additional information to ask about the absurd price. According to Executive Director of Communications Kathleen Steinberg, the money students pay goes toward test development, shipping and scoring of exams, and payment and accommodations for AP Readers. Ms. Steinberg also emphasized the fact that College Board is a nonprofit organization, and therefore none of the money that we pay is used for personal



HOW MUCH IS A TEST WORTH TO YOU?

gain. First, such information should be made more public. It would quell a lot of the angry sentiments rumbling because of the AP test order forms.

Second, there is still no way to go around the monetary issue. Money has to come from somewhere to pay for these exams, especially when a portion of it is hand-graded by well-trained AP readers so as to accurately assess students' ability; yet the cost is unreasonable. It places limitations on many students who would like to take more AP courses but are financially incapable of doing so. The fee reductions attempt to aid this issue, but they do not

assuage all cases. For example, I am not eligible for a fee reduction. I am consequently forced to pay nearly 300 dollars this year for my three AP classes. I am one of five children. The tuition for all four of my siblings is already a financial burden, and the requirement that I pay such a substantial price to merely take three exams has led my parents to question whether or not I should take three APs again next year. Why should I have to restrict my desire to achieve a higher education because the program that distributes the tests charges so much money? And where is the justice in my paying 300 dollars while a family with a lower total income but maybe only one child to care for pays a mere 30 dollars for the same test?

I certainly do not represent the worst case out there, but it doesn't change the fact that thousands of families just like mine face the issue of paying hundreds of dollars for taking more challenging courses and for the GPA bump. According to the College Board, the expense is necessary and it can't be faulted for the high cost. The question then is whether AP classes are worth the cost. Maybe for my family next year, it won't be, and that will be a shame.

Senior Superlatives Not So Super

By **JANE CHUPRIN, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Senior superlatives—cute little titles to add some pizzazz to the yearbook, and a way for seniors to voice in on the peers they've come to know over the past six (or four) years. Some seniors, however, don't even bother to touch the paper. Needless to say, it's not that big of a deal to not fill one in. This year's superlatives, however, seemed to especially disappoint. One senior noted, "They were so cliché, it was boring... because there was nothing memorable about it."

Memorable. Don't we all hope that the last year of our lives before we gain independence is noteworthy? If something's bland, we are quick to forget it, especially when compared to various other facts we BLS students tend to cram into our heads, like all five Latin declensions and four conjugations. Many seniors don't even remember those now.

We are Boston Latin School. We

always seem to do things differently, whether it's having the "fourth" floor between the first and second floor or having a marble statue of Magna Mater residing in our corridors. You've probably heard that Boston Latin School was the first school in America established in 1635. The point of this is that Boston Latin School is the original, and it is the unforgettable. If that is the case, why is part of what we are supposed to remember it by, the yearbook, and more specifically, the superlatives, so cookie-cutter?

Best dressed, best couple, best personality, best "insert some quality here..."

What's special about that?

Everything sounds monotone and expected.

The current Senior Superlatives are the kind typically found on TV teen drama shows. Most of the superlatives judge physical traits instead of personality. Why are we being a stereotypical school judging based on popularity and physicality?

"Best rear view" isn't exactly what many of us think about on a daily basis or will remember in years to come. Some of the Superlatives don't even make sense. What does "most dramatically changed" refer to specifically? Change as a person? Academically? Stylistically? Physically? Many just shrugged their shoulders and assumed it had to do with looks. Even the ones not based on looks are surprisingly traditional. There's a category for best male friendship and best female friendship. Where's the one for the best male-female friendship?

Superlatives should be fun and imaginative, like "cutest couple that should have been," "most likely to secretly be a superhero," "most likely to invent a time machine" or "most likely to procrastinate"... though perhaps not the last one because every BLS senior would tie for that.

There's room for creativity here, so why not take the chance to embrace it? Superlatives change from year to year, so we can use this to our advantage. They are

not set in stone. We can change them or re-use them if they're popular.

Innovative superlatives will make thinking about them less of a "task" and more of a fun way to interact, like Facebook. More people will be interested. More people will talk about it. More people will vote. More people will remember. Think of when you're in college and a conversation about superlatives comes up. Imagine saying something like, "Oh, you were voted 'most likely to succeed'? Good for you! I was voted 'most likely to become a masked vigilante'. Beat that!" (This title would, by the way, have the added benefit of awarding recognition to the senior engaged in the most humanitarian activities in a fun way).

It's true that at the end of the day, superlatives are a pretty insignificant part of the yearbook. It's also true, however, that at the end of the day, superlatives will be black-and-white in a book that bears your BLS memories. Shouldn't superlatives reflect the spirit of BLS?

MBTA Fare Not Fair

By **YING MING, V**
STAFF WRITER

On February 13, hundreds of protesters from various walks of life in the metropolitan area of Boston gathered to demonstrate their disapproval of a deficit reduction plan proposed recently by the MBTA.

The plan aimed to rein in the company's gaping fiscal deficit of \$161 million by seeking a substantial fare hike that went as high as forty-three percent along with the elimination of approximately one hundred bus and train services. If implemented, this plan will significantly impact the lifestyles of thousands of Boston residents.

The first issue with the bill is that it doesn't target the root causes of MBTA's aggravated fiscal imbalance. A simplistic fare increase will only help the MBTA temporarily. In fact, Mayor Menino called it a "one-year band-aid". The budget issue will come back and haunt the company again once the newly raised money is depleted. Moreover, by bailing them-

selves out of a budget crisis, the MBTA is putting an even heavier burden on the shoulders of the city, its citizens and the environment. For instance, higher fares on the MBTA will be a perfect incentive for thousands of former public commuters to drive, leading to more traffic on already congested streets and more pollution. The profits the city reaps from tourism would be hurt, as the sharp increase in the price of public transportation would deter visitors. Tourism is of course indispensable to Boston's local economy. If tourism does indeed decline noticeably, it would not only throw the MBTA back into the red, but also drag the city along with it.

Those are only projected repercussions of the plan. For thousands of commuters, the MBTA is the lifeline that connects home, school, and work. Depending on where residents live, many families will find themselves unable to afford the drastic changes in price. What seems like an insubstantial increase now is bound to add up quickly and hurt pockets, especially for families who cannot afford to drive in the first place. To make matters

worse, many bus and train services would be terminated, depriving those who depend on the MBTA for transportation. The low-income, handicapped and homeless will be hit hardest by the change. Several bus lines that pass through shelters of the handicapped would be canceled, leaving the already deficient population with little means of transportation.

The fact that the MBTA needs to pay off its million-dollar deficit is completely understandable, but the company's approach is short-sighted and lacks a sense of priority and focus. While a significant increase in fares will raise revenue in short run, many passengers will simply stop riding. This is not even the first time the MBTA is raising its prices. It will likely continue to lose once-loyal customers in a cycle of price hikes, gradually destroying a system of transportation previously known for convenience, efficiency and



SOARING PRICES HURT ALL

affordability. "I understand the increase in fares, but this is just too much," says one frustrated rider of the train.

The MBTA needs to look internally at its cost structures to see if the company managed its costs effectively and if alternative revenue sources are possible. Solutions to a deficit problem need to incorporate a combination of different long-sighted approaches. This certainly does not include the "grab our customers' wallets" approach the MBTA is proposing.

FORUM

Black History Month Outdated

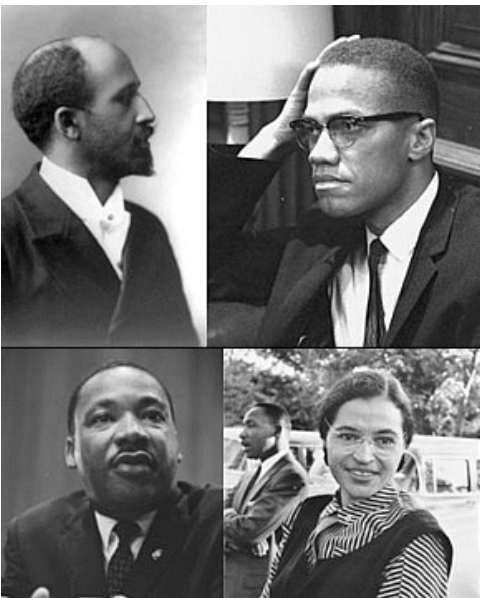
By ROSE SILVERMAN, III
& NORA COLLINS, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

You may be wondering what authority two white girls have to be writing about racism. You may even be wondering why anyone is writing about racism in the first place. The answer is this: over the last year and a half, we have been working together at Southern Jamaica Plain Health Center in a youth group, half of which is white and half of which is black. Along with other Boston Latin School students, we hold workshops and study the history of race and racism. Discussion of racism has become incredibly taboo in the United States. Society shoves aside differences. We pretend not to see “race,” and say we are colorblind; yet deep down, we hold onto our stereotypes and our prejudices, never daring to utter them out loud or to even try to understand where they come from. That is why we are writing about this. Two white girls are at least a start.

We all know the month of February is Black History Month. Most likely ev-

eryone has written some obligatory report on Martin Luther King Jr. or Rosa Parks at some point in their lives. But have you ever thought about why February is Black History Month? Or what that says about the other eleven months of the year?

Black History Month is a time that on the surface looks like a positive celebration of diversity, but is in reality a form of subtle racism. Its story starts in 1926, when a historian named Carter G. Woodson named the second week in February “Negro History Week,” because it fell on the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Fifty years later, it was lengthened to to-



NOT JUST BLACK LEADERS - AMERICAN LEADERS

day’s “Black History Month.” Its focus, however, was different. At the time, it was intended to raise awareness of the African Diaspora—honoring the slaves who were shipped out of Africa and into the Americas.

Over the years, it has turned into a celebration of black men and women who helped achieve racial justice in this country: Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, etc. Yet individuals are a crucial part of American history, not just black history, and it is disrespectful to separate them in this way. They should be honored twelve months a year, the way we remember other white leaders. Why don’t we have a White History Month? The sad truth

is that we don’t need to. In a way, every month is white history month.

At the time it was created, Black History Month was actually a step in the right direction for the United States. Today, it feels patronizing and antiquated. Woodson, the man who first came up with “Negro History Week,” was even quoted saying that he hoped it would someday be eliminated, when black history became a fundamental part of American history. Woodson was talking about now.

We live in a country where we have gone from slavery to having a black president. It is clear that progress has been made. However, it is not enough. If we still need to have a month specifically set aside to honor and appreciate African Americans who have made contributions to society, then it means that we’re doing something wrong in the other eleven months. Black history should not be any different from American history. They are intertwined. 1926 was eighty six years ago. It’s time to get to the place of racial equality and awareness that Woodson expected us to reach.

By EMMA HENDERSON, II
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If I were walking down a super market aisle right now, I would see products marked with green advertising: all natural, certified organic, environmentally friendly, dolphin-safe and Rainforest Alliance certified. I would also be expected to believe that through the packaging, these products are good for the consumer and the environment. Only more often than not, they aren’t.

In an attempt to understand the pervasiveness of this problem, I went to Stop & Shop in search of such false advertising and found exactly what I was looking for. A Simply Asia packaged meal had “premium natural” written on the box, but the product contained 1350 mg of sodium, or 56% of your daily value, in a 240 gram bowl designed to feed only one person. The ingredients listed hydrolyzed soy protein, which is made through a process that can result in the creation of cancer-causing chemicals or through a process that uses genetically manipulated bacteria to hydrolyze the soy. Pick your poison.

Either way, it’s not “natural.”

I also encountered a Beechnut baby food jar that claimed to be a host of natural ingredients. These natural ingredients included a list of genetically modified ingredients like docosaheptaenoic acid (DHA). When I see things like this, I hope that people other than me would be able to recognize which foods come from the ground, and which foods come from a man in a lab coat.

Along with the examples listed above, I found many other instances of green-washing that relied on pure ignorance to sell. I saw a package of chicken that claimed to be gluten-free. Last time I checked, chickens don’t have gluten. There was a chicken cutlet that boasted the chickens were raised cage free, and that the meat did not have any hormones or steroids added. A vegetarian product I found had on its logo, “Fresh from the Patch.” What patch was that? According to the back of the package, it was one located in Czechoslovakia or Israel. Generally speaking, the phrase “fresh from the patch” makes me think of going out into my garden and picking a zucchini, not flying in ingredients from halfway

around the world.

The reality of the matter is that many “greenly” marketed products are not environmentally beneficial at all. Environmental activists have come to call this practice of deceiving the public “green-washing,” because corporations use certain tactics to erect a façade of green holiness around their products to the untrained eye. They do this to sell misleading merchandise, to give their companies a better reputation and to encourage consumers to buy their products at higher prices. Although false advertising is nothing new, “green-washing” is especially revolting because the companies are targeting people with good intentions. Consumers who are trying to be socially responsible towards the environment when purchasing are in fact supporting unsustainable companies.

Green-washing is not limited to small products found in supermarkets; it is practiced on all scales and by various companies. Some of the biggest and most notorious green-washers are BP and General Motors (GM). BP, the company that brought us the Deepwater Horizon oil

spill, changed their logo from what looked like a Route 66 sign to a happy green flower, in order to promote a greener appearance. GM has launched a long series of ad campaigns to label their company as environmentally friendly. One example was a commercial that featured an SUV driving through or sitting in beautiful places, as if the gas-guzzling car was one with the trees and birds.

Companies that portray themselves to be green when they market environmentally damaging products, while simultaneously fighting the government against environmental regulations, are hypocritical and immoral. Yet, though there is definitely a dark side to green marketing, there are nonetheless many companies that really are based upon the principles of making healthy, organic products without harming the environment. We as consumers just need to question the legitimacy of all the natural or green looking products more often. Then we can separate the good from the bad and support companies that actually are trying to make green products that are beneficial to us and the world.

Church Can’t Control Contraception

By ESHE SHERLEY, I
STAFF WRITER

Once again, America finds itself in a tizzy over birth control; once again, all the writers for major publications dust off their keyboards to reiterate their stance for an issue that first began in the early 1960s. All the hubbub from the biggest names in politics and journalism can make this issue feel irrelevant to most of the *Argo*’s readers, everyday students just trying to make it out of high school in one piece. This latest controversy, however, has added a new wrinkle to an already complicated issue - should religious institutions give out birth control for free, or at all, against their religious beliefs? If we all take a moment to really think about this, I think most of us would agree that this is an issue that is especially discerning high school students.

When President Obama partially made the decision of exempting religious institutions from the regulation requiring health care companies to provide birth

control at no cost, was he correct? I’m inclined to think President Obama got this one right. He neither bent to the whims of religious institutions nor infringed on their freedom of religion. President Obama essentially exempted religious institutions themselves from directly subsidizing prescription contraception. He, however, still required religious institutions’ insurance companies to abide by the new regulations. Although this is a concession, many religious institutions still say he is curtailing their rights; yet even insurance companies affiliated with religious institutions are just that. Companies such as those ought to follow the same rules as all the other insurance companies.

In this opinion, I have the Supreme Court behind me. Even conservative judges like Antonin Scalia have expressed their belief that an individual’s religious beliefs don’t exempt him or her from following a valid law. There’s also a precedent established throughout various court rulings concerning the Amish and

Native Americans that back Justice Scalia up.

What the Church seems to be ignoring is that its actions affect more than Catholics. As Bostonians, we’ve been able to see the cross between the secular and religious by ourselves. Many of us who are not Catholic went to Catholic school and interacted with teachers and janitors who were not Catholic there. In their current move, the Church is asking to insert itself into their lives. In pursuit of First Amendment rights, it already has, usurping their personal liberty. If the Church had gotten its way, this non-Catholic staff would have to abide by the Church’s moral code against their will. In two words, not cool. Why can’t the Church just leave the issue to Roman Catholics themselves? If any Catholic wants to abide by canon law, he/she can just not take prescription contraception.

The Church’s outrage definitely appears exaggerated. Its anger might make more sense if these regulations are new, but they are not. States have been

requiring insurers to provide prescription contraception free of charge for years now. These insurers included those that cover religious institutions, and we didn’t see them object so vehemently at the state level.

Unfortunately for Obama, it’s an election year. The Catholic bishops think that they can exercise more influence in the political realm, since they believe Obama will be looking for their support very soon. This, nevertheless, isn’t purely a religious or political issue. What bubbles right underneath all this is abortion and access to birth control. The religious question may complicate matters, but it doesn’t change the fact that this is essential to public health. President Obama is right to treat this as such. If we make it easier for women to get birth control now, we will reduce costs and unwanted pregnancies in the future. It’s that simple. No, we shouldn’t trample on First Amendment rights to do that, but anything less than this plan would hurt women in the process.

FORUM

Does pink ribbon help the breast cancer cause?



Yes

By **ANDREW ZICK, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Throughout the history of the human race, when faced with adversity, we have consistently come together as a society to stand firm against life’s obstacles and overcome them. This is particularly apparent in social issues. America is littered with such unifying initiatives, including the current and most influential issue to modern world: finding a cure for cancer. Of course, in America, when we think of cancer, we think of breast cancer, and when we think of breast cancer, we think of pink ribbons.

The organization most responsible for this branding is the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. Since its founding in 1982, the foundation has been growing steadily since its inception. Although currently embroiled in a scandal with Planned Parenthood, its legacy extends far beyond that. It is commonly known for holding fundraisers in order to raise money and awareness for breast cancer, and bringing together the people affected by the disease.

Cancer has been around for along as humans have existed, but only in modern times has it become a prominent concern of society. While this is certainly due to an increased understanding of the disease in its many shapes and forms, a large part is also due to the work of organizations like the Komen Foundation to spread news and awareness to the public about the causes and effects of these cancers and what can be done to prevent and treat them.

The most easily recognizable symbols of the Komen foundation and the entire breast cancer cause are the pink ribbons and bracelets frequently seen adorning supporters and survivors. However, this parading of pink in our culture has not come without many complaints from other breast cancer activists, claiming that the publicity and marketing that the Komen foundation engages in is not beneficial to the breast cancer cause. Some critics believe that while the message sent out is initially good, it becomes bogged down with the baggage of selling the pink image, rather than spreading awareness and raising money to cure cancer.

This argument just doesn’t hold up. Though pink clothing and accessories surface throughout the year and are especially prominent during October, they are raising awareness. Even our national sports, traditionally typecast as masculine, have joined the cause with the NFL donning pink gear for National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Afterwards some of these items were even auctioned off, with all proceeds going to support the Komen foundation. Even BLS has joined in. Earlier in February, the girls’ hockey team and BLS Care for a Cure hosted the Pink in the Rink event for breast cancer awareness, and pink ribbons and t-shirts were sold by the players. Truly the color pink itself has become a rallying point for the cause. Compared to a time when talking about breast cancer was taboo, the pink ribbon as a tool to promote breast cancer awareness has been incredibly effective.

Then there are the critics who question the Komen Foundation itself. They wonder whether the foundation has appropriated some of the money for its operating costs or personal expenses of its executives, and even wondering if the foundation itself is just one big marketing scheme, with a very small amount of money actually benefiting women with breast cancer.

Nevertheless these accusations don’t hold any ground when you consider all the beneficial work the Komen foundation has performed in the last thirty years. It has helped bring to the forefront of the American conscience a disease that will affect 1 in 8 women in their lifetime. It has given millions of dollars to pay for mammograms for underprivileged women. It has saved countless lives by promoting exams for early detection and funding research to find a cure. If the price for all this is a national fever for pink, then you must consider that there are much worse things you could come down with.

No

By **NAOMI LEONARD, I**
FORUM EDITOR

There is no way to deny that the pink ribbon has helped raise countless dollars for the breast cancer awareness cause. It is a very easy symbol for companies to use to sell products. Anything looks cute when it’s pink, and any price seems a little more reasonable if you know some of the money is going to charity. Of course this could be said for any product that’s sold with the promise of charitable contributions, but no other cause is able to generate as much money as breast cancer awareness does. The ribbon, however, is not necessarily a good thing.

When I was about 8, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. For the next year or so, we built up quite a collection of pink ribbon merchandise: t-shirts, make-up, dolls and stuffed animals. All of it gifts to either my mother or me. They had to have been gifts because my mother hated them. It turns out many breast cancer survivors do.

Breast cancer is often referred to as "the dream cause" because of its marketability. Mattel would never make a colon cancer Barbie or a prostate cancer Ken. Breast cancer doesn't make people uncomfortable in the same way, and it’s mainly because of how feminine the pink ribbon has made breast cancer.

This feminine and pretty image is a completely inaccurate depiction of breast cancer. Breast cancer can lead to women losing their hair, having full mastectomy or even having their ovaries removed, leaving them sterile. Breast cancer is the opposite of pretty and feminine; it is a horrible disease that can ruin or end women's lives.

Occasionally, it is almost humorous what products the pink ribbon is slapped onto. There are the KFC pink buckets, for example. But, sometimes, it’s simply horrifying. Many of the products adorned with pink ribbons are cosmetics, because after all, Estée Lauder was the first to popularize the pink ribbon. Ironically, however, many of these cosmetic products also contain carcinogens and therefore actually put the user at a higher risk of developing the disease.

Another company whose attempt to associate itself with the battle against breast cancer is particularly revolting is Chambord, which produces alcoholic beverages. Very little is known about the causes of breast cancer in women, but scientists have actually discovered that drinking alcohol increases one’s chance of getting breast cancer. Regardless of this fact, however, Chambord Vodka created a pink-colored, raspberry-flavored vodka. In doing this, Chambord ignored scientific facts and used the ribbon as an incentive for women to buy a product that could be potentially harmful to them. By using the pink ribbon, companies like Chambord reap many benefits they do not deserve. Not only do they sell greater volumes and make bigger profits, but they also boost their own reputations, as consumers will have greater respect for a seemingly charitable company.

I'm not alone in my criticisms of the pink ribbon. Recently, a new documentary premiered at the Toronto Film Festival called Pink Ribbons, Inc. The film drew attention to the hypocrisy behind the ribbon. I haven't gotten around to seeing the movie yet, though I don’t really think that’s my fault, considering it is not being screened anywhere in the United States. I have, however, watched the trailers. In just a few minutes, they were able to touch upon many points regarding the pink ribbon, including some of the ones I previous mentioned. They also spoke about the ribbon’s dubious beginnings. Estée Lauder reportedly stole the design from a little old lady. Basically, by the end of the trailer, it’s impossible not to feel angry.

People tend to ignore a lot of bad things about the pink ribbon, but it is simply a marketing tool which misrepresents the horrible reality that is breast cancer and earns undeserving companies millions of dollars.

Forum Question

Does pink ribbon help the breast cancer cause?



“Yes I think it is good. Even a small difference is a difference.”
-Nora Hexter, I



“Yes, and it is definitely a cause worth contributing to!
-Ariana Ule & Hannah Tran-Trinh, II



“Yes. They are raising money for the cause.”
-Jamie Monahan, III



“No. I don’t believe that the money is going towards the funding.”
-Daniel Lei, IV



“I think it is raising money, but not telling what breast cancer is.”
-Julia Atayde & Anna Crusoe, V



“Yes. The color means something.”
- Angelica Samonte, VI

FORUM

Advocating for Ads

By **TERRY NI, V**
STAFF WRITER

With the recent Super Bowl and February break, there have been many chances to watch television. Turn on the TV and most likely, instead of a program, the television will be displaying an advertisement. Many people might scream, “What is the point of these?” and perhaps slam the remote onto the coffee table after switching the channel.

Ads seem to be a waste of time and the worst of marketing ploys. They use cool images, catchy music and interesting stories to trick people into purchasing a product. These much detested clips, however, are misjudged. The hatred is sometimes unreasonable. Advertisements help television networks make money. Therefore, to have shows, there must be commercials.

Besides, they let people practice patience, enhance the show, present cool ideas and teach people how to market an item. Once in a while, they even display a product that might be useful or a sale that truly saves money.

First of all, people just need to endure advertisements. They make the channel money. Plus, they are really, really short. Instead of flipping the channel, maybe just watch it or think about things that must be done in your life. Practice patience. After enduring a seemingly endless train of ads, viewers feel more appreciation for the show.

Sure, after a segment of the show is over, those notorious advertisements will pop up again. That’s intentional. The television networks cut the program at the

best parts to give viewers time to think and provide some suspense: how will the show end? What just happened in the previous section? It is a great tool for building tension. That’s the entire thought process behind cliff-hangers! For example, every New Year’s Day, right before the ball in Times Square drops, a series of commercials play, so people can start anticipating the New Year. If programs were to go on continuously, television would be boring, as it bombards people with information without a break and time for reflection about the show. Commercials are the breaks in fast-paced, never-ending television.

Also, these advertisements sometimes display some really fascinating items. Usually, advertisers display their best products, and these can be some very creative items. Few would know about Snugglies without their commercials, and it must be admitted, putting sleeves into a blanket is a very original idea. It might even inspire some would-be inventor to create a related product or improve upon the existing one.

There’s something in it for the consumer too. There are few who own every product that is advertised. Many people have seen something they needed on television and decided to buy it. This is a win-win situation: the consumer is satisfied, the business advertised gets a customer and the television network makes money. This leads to a happier life, a better product and the continuation of shows or even newer, better ones. Ads are very effective at achieving what they were created for.

That is why TV ads have such a long history. The first commercial was for watchmaker Bulova in 1941. It used similar techniques to the ones used in advertisements today, showing a clock on a map of the United States and declaring, “America runs on Bulova time.” Great ads can be very memorable, and clearly, this one is. It sounds strikingly like Dunkin’ Donuts’ slogan, “America runs on Dunkin’.” The only difference is that Bulova only paid nine dollars for a 20 second slot on WNBC before an insignificant game. Compare that to Super Bowl advertisement prices today! If companies have used ads for so long and are willing to pay such high prices, it must be because commercials work.

Moreover, television advertisements can be very creative, as seen during the Super Bowl. They use many marketing techniques which are entertaining and even educational. They tell a funny story to slowly ease people into the subject and use a vivid presentation to impress and emphasize the strong points of the topic. Those are useful techniques not just for advertising, but any form of persuasive argument. People may argue that television shows are educational, but surprisingly, commercials can be educational as well.

Commercials can help people in such immense ways, yet few people appreciate them. Instead, most simply switch the channel during television advertisements or complain that their favorite show is interrupted. Who knew there could be so many advantages to television advertisements? Next time, don’t change the channel.

Lego My Amigo

By **LAURA DOWD, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Recently, The LEGO Group came out with a new line specifically geared towards little girls called LEGO Friends. The LEGO sets are primarily colored varying shades of pink, with smatterings of bright blue, green, purple and the occasional red accent. Unlike the shapeless, essentially genderless LEGO people of the past, these LEGO “girls” feature thin arms, tiny breasts and a feeble attempt at curves. They seem to emulate the body of a young teenage girl. It gets better. The line also expands the spectrum of what a girl is supposed to be interested in by providing such groundbreaking options as a café, a bakery, various domestic situations, a veterinary hospital, a fashion design studio and a beauty parlor. Oh, and a castle. Of course, feminists in the media everywhere rose up in outrage, asserting that LEGO was really just trying to perpetuate stereotypes to keep women in their place.

To a certain extent, the feminists are right, but their outrage is grossly exaggerated. It is true—LEGO is perpetuating a stereotype. Just look at the list of sets they’re producing; even though it might be nice to see more professions represented, the company is just trying to provide stuff little girls and maybe even some little boys want to play with. The LEGO company maintains that it created the new line for the kids who weren’t buying the “Pirates of the Caribbean,” “Harry Potter” or “Star Wars” sets. LEGO did not ride around in a giant pink convertible saying that little girls could only play with these LEGOs. They’re not banning girls from buying their other sets. They are simply providing these traditionally “girly” options for those who want them.



Feminists need to stop treating this slightly unfortunate marketing choice like it’s Plessey v. Ferguson. Nobody is being forced to use anything.

This current debate sheds a fantastic light on one of the great flaws of modern feminism. Linda Chavez, the author of a New York Post article on this issue, eloquently summed it up in her statement that “in fact, it’s the feminists who want to limit women’s choices. Their message to girls and young women is: if you’re not exactly like men, you don’t believe in equal rights.” Although I disagree with her statement that feminists want to limit women’s choices, this notion is definitely a by-product of their current stance. They are sending the message that if you are not fighting men and trying to replace them, you are not a true feminist. If you are not rebelling against every previous female role in society, you are not representing your true strength. This emasculation of the female gender demeans our previous roles and narrows

our options. It might even be pressuring some people to follow career paths they don’t necessarily want. What is wrong with a woman who’d rather be a housewife than a businesswoman?

To me, feminism is about propagating women’s access to all of the same positions as men and the same respect in those jobs, not to force all women to desire them. We don’t have to take over the world, and we should never want to, because that would be downright hypocritical. Many little girls naturally often want to make things beautiful, at least in their own eyes, and many little boys naturally want to build things as large as they can, and then smash them into little pieces as violently as possible. And that’s okay. Gender-related preferences are unavoidable. These LEGOs don’t limit little girls; they provide the option for them to do what they may enjoy. And who is to say their preferences might not change with age? When I was little, all I wanted to do was dress up myself and my stuffed animals, or admire the pictures of dresses in magazines and picture books. That doesn’t mean I was permanently restricted to dressing up.

Besides, women as a whole have much more important things to think about than potentially gender-specific LEGOs. Pick your battles, ladies. More importantly, remember that feminism isn’t about emasculating women, but about providing them with options. As awesome as “Star Wars” is, a preference for it from a young age is not a requirement for being successful in life.

The Omnipotent
He-Wolf

Dear He-Wolf,

When we broke up a long time ago, we came to the conclusion that we are just better apart. It’s not that we don’t get along - it’s just that we know that we both have responsibilities, which can easily become messy. We cross each other’s lines all the time, which is why we have mutually and amicably decided to be estranged. So why is Rick Santorum trying to bring us back together? If he truly knew us and how we operate, he would see that it’s unhealthy for us to be in a relationship. How do we make Rick understand that this country can’t deal with another caustic break up!? #TeamSeal #AufWiedersehenHeidi

Sincerely,
Church and State

Dear Church and State,

You just have to lay down the law. Well . . . state at least should. I think that the best idea for you two is to bring Rick to an intervention. You guys need to sit down with him and tell him all of them times when your union actually caused other people’s rights to feel infringed upon. Tell him about that time when you two were fighting over whether or not there should be school prayer in public schools! Or even tell him how right now the mere mention of the whole insurance provisions for contraception is bringing you two way too close for comfort!

Yours truly,
He-Wolf

Dear He-Wolf,

My momma wants me to keep doing pageants, but I’m sick and tired of all the work I have to do. She thinks that giving my special juice will help me win, but it just ain’t working no more. The special juice has made me so big that I can’t even fit in my Daisy Dukes no more. The gogo juice doesn’t even kick in - I’m more tired than I’ve ever been! All this sugar’s been blocking up these arteries! My momma thinks she can rule me just because she’s the Coupon Queen, but I’m finna show her that this superstah won’t listen. But because I’m not doing pageants anymore, He-Wolf, how am I supposed to make moneyyyy?

xoxo,
Honey Boo Boo Child

Dear Honey Boo Boo Child,

You have so many talents, girl. I know that you don’t need those pageants to spread your skills to the world. Your mother was exploiting you! She was throwing you on stage and making you shake your butt, but I know that you’re better than that! Honey boo boo, if a dollar makes you truly holler, than you should pursue a career that makes a ton of money. That is why I suggest that you become an investment banker!

Best of luck!
He-Wolf
P.S. The judges never know a good thing when they see it.

A & E

The Old & New of the Oscars

By **ALLIE KENNELLY, III**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A few weeks ago, many of the world's biggest stars came together at Hollywood's Highland Theatre to celebrate the very best actors, directors, writers and movies of the past year. This year, the red carpet was flooded with many first time nominees. From Superbad funnyman Jonah Hill to Rooney Mara, who just last year played Mark Zuckerberg's girlfriend in The Social Network,

this year's Academy Awards had the potential to be even more exciting and surprising than usual.

The evening is as exciting and nerve-racking for the actors as it is for the dedicated fans watching at home. We have all found ourselves biting our lips and sitting at the edge of our seats as we wait for the presenter to say, "and the Oscar goes to..." and most of us have felt the immediate shock, excitement and sometimes disappointment over the winner. But how surprised are we really?

Of all of the movies that were nominated for an Oscar on Sunday night, only one movie was filmed entirely in Los Angeles. The Artist, a black-and-white silent film about Hollywood and the movie industry, was predicted to win all of the big awards this year, predictions that were clearly spot on because The Artist swept nearly all of the categories it was nominated in. Some people, however, say that because it was about acting and was filmed in L.A. movie studios, it had an unfair advantage over the other nominated films.

There is no denying that The Artist is an excellent movie. The score, directing, costumes and acting were essential to making this silent film a story that people could enjoy and relate to. But was it only the incredible work of

these actors, directors and writers that won The Artist the high esteem that comes with winning Best Picture and Actor in a Leading Role, or was it the bias of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences?

The more than 6,000 people who choose and vote for the nominees, most commonly known as the Academy, are made up of a variety of filmmakers and entertainers. According to the L.A. Times, however, 77 percent of academy members are male, and the average age of someone in the academy is 62. So how can we really say that the winners are a fair representation of the greatest talent in the business? The Academy says that they are more concerned with "recognizing the achievements of these actors than they are with promoting diversity" but one cannot help but notice the similarities in all of the movies that won Oscars this year. Movies like The Iron Lady and Midnight in Paris won over less conventional choices such as Bridesmaids and The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo. And Meryl Streep won yet again (her seventeenth nomination), over the incredible performances of Michelle Williams and Viola Davis in My Week with Marilyn and The Help, respectively.

Everyone has different taste in movies; I, for one, was very pleased to hear that The Muppets had snagged the Oscar for Best Original Song, but maybe that was because it was such a shock. One of the best things about these award shows is the excitement you get from finding out who won. You cannot have those lip-biting, edge-of-your-seat moments when you already have a pretty good idea of who is going to win. All of the predictions and speculations only take away from the magic that comes with the utter shock of learning that you or your favorite movie have just won an Oscar.



INSIDE THE GLAMOUR OF THE ACADEMY

Everyday I'm Tumblr-ing

By **MAYA ALLEGRO, I**
STAFF WRITER

If the phrase "go to your happy place" makes you think of your tumblr.com dashboard, you are not alone. This does not mean, however, that you don't need help. We all do. Tumblr addiction is on the rise. Because most teens blog alone, this disease often goes untreated. Abuse of the site can lead to failure to complete assignments, a physical inability to stop scrolling and sleep deprivation. Tumblr addicts may surround you at any given moment. They often walk undetected and unnoticed through society.

If you have ever been happy to see the "Sorry, we couldn't load the next page! Try again." notice, because it finally freed you from a never-ending dashboard, if you have ever refrained from getting off your tush to go to the bathroom for far too long, because you didn't want to leave your computer all on its own, if you think it is a compliment to tell someone the picture they just took "looks like it should be on Tumblr," then you have experienced symptoms of a Tumblr addiction. Unlimited scroll is a dangerous thing.

Tumblr is not just a website but a place for validation. Nothing feels better than having your post re-blogged by someone you admire. And all those great shows that your friends don't watch? Tumblr is full of countless shows that are disproportionately popular there than they are in real life. Suddenly you're not lame for watching whatever little known and most likely British television show

you love; in fact you're cool and obscure too.

In these modern times, it doesn't seem to be the eyes that are the window into a person's soul but their google history. And is that such a bad thing? The internet is a place for the curious and the bored. Tumblr has all the best the internet has to offer. There is art, fashion, landscapes, gifs and especially cats. There are blogs for just about anything, from philosophy to Avatar the Last Airbender. Then there is the greatest blog of all: your own.

It is your blank canvas; it is a place to express whatever you darn well please. Depending on your mood, you can post pictures that inspire, quotes that hit home or funny gifs. You can learn so much

more about a person's style, beliefs and interests from a blog than any other type of social networking site.

Face it. We will always procrastinate. But that doesn't mean we can't learn while we do it. While "researching" for this article, I learned that Leonardo da Vinci only slept for fifteen minutes every four hours, dopamine makes you addicted to seeking information, and aprons used to be called naprons from the French word napperon but so many people misheard "a napron" as "an apron" that they changed the word. Will this information ever help me in real life? Who really cares? I for one would rather surround myself with art, old movie stars, hot girls and fun facts than with the candid photo albums and statuses of my peers.



TUMBLR RECRUITS YET ANOTHER ADDICT

Spotlight Grace Carney



FACEBOOK.COM

By **B. KIM, I**
& **ALEXIA SPINNEY, I**
NEWS EDITOR AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Believe it or not, item one on Alexia's bucket list for senior year once read: get to know Grace Carney. That bold and beautiful girl you see wearing exceptional outfits and carrying huge AP Calculus and Biology textbooks just can't be missed. Grace is truly one of a kind...

But actually, Grace is one of four. Her twin John and younger brother Robert share her immense love of music, and with them she formed a band called Grace and the Carnivore, who together perform brilliantly and write superb songs. We joke about finding a "Carney Pandora station"...which isn't beyond the realm of possibility. In fact, such a station may come into being in the near future.

One might say that Grace has changed dramatically over the past few years, and in some ways she has. She dreamt of being a doctor, but recently decided to devote her life to performing—not to mention that she has basically developed into a fashion icon for the Class of 2012.

Few people have the privilege of getting to know the real Grace. Extremely headstrong and ceding defeat to no one, Grace has a voice to die for, priceless facial expressions and a particular way of captivating her audience—whether it's her fellow classmates or her audience. She has the power to move anybody to tears—even babies, on occasion.

Grace takes advantage of this talent at the theatre as well. Whether she is closing The Rocky Horror Picture Show with an incredible solo or playing the sensible and southern Alexandra in a quirky adaptation of The Little Foxes, Grace stuns her mostly adult, majorly gay audience. She participates in the professional theatre company The Gold Dust Orphans, run by her best friend Ryan: a 51-year-old drag queen.

During the summer, Grace and her brothers busk on the streets of Provincetown, earning thousands of dollars. Tour buses even point her out. There, Grace and the Carnivore competed weekly in a mostly drag competition called "Show Girls" (winning three times), where she met some of her greatest inspirations.

Grace, who started her musical career at BLS sixie year as a novice cellist, is now a member of the esteemed Concert Strings Orchestra. But that is hardly the beginning for this overachiever. While she may be a vegetarian, she can never have too much on her plate. Not only does she demonstrate leadership in Wolfettes, Show Choir and Chamber Choir, she miraculously maintains stellar grades all while rehearsing for her shows past midnight every day of the week.

If you have the opportunity to become friends with Grace, take it. Because not only will she give you brutally honest insight and an invaluable friendship but before you know it, she'll be so famous and you won't be able to reach her even if you tried.

OMG It's the New Twilight

By **KEVIN MAYER, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

No. It isn't.

The Hunger Games, by New Jersey native writer Suzanne Collins, will hit theaters soon. So let us clear something up before its release: it is very different from *Twilight*. The movie version of *The Hunger Games* will not come out until March 23, so a comparison can only be based on the plots of the books. Granted, there are some similarities between the stories that cannot be denied. Both series are aimed at young adults, contain a fantasy element, and there are (now famous) love triangles present. This in no way, however, means that the *The Hunger Games* is the second coming of *Twilight*. The *Twilight* series is essentially a romance series with some action thrown in at the end of each book. *The Hunger Games* is a novel full of action with some romance thrown in for good measure. While both series center around a female protagonist—something still uncommon in action-packed novels—the two women could not be more different. Katniss Everdeen is a strong, independent character, who does not need to rely on anyone or anything but her wits and her skills. Bella Swan, in contrast, nearly always relies on the aid of one or the other of her mystical lovers.

Twilight, for the few who do not already know, tells the story of teenager Bella who moves to a small town which she soon finds to be inhabited by vampires. She falls in love with one.

Later on, she also discovers that there are werewolves in town and falls in love with one of them as well. The werewolves are conveniently the enemies of the vampires. Many books before *Twilight* have used variations on this plotline, such as *The Vampire Diaries*. Girl moves to town, falls in love with loner guy...oh no, he's a vampire! I guess I love him anyway.

Of course, people can read whatever they want, but *The Hunger Games* is on a completely different level than *Twilight*. Katniss, the book's main character, lives in a dystopian world called Panem. (Look, some Latin! It really is useful!) The country Panem is split into 12 districts across what used to be called North America and is ruled by their dictatorial Capitol. At some point in the past, the districts tried to rebel. As a reminder never to do this again, the Capitol instituted an annual competition: *The Hunger Games*. *The Hunger Games* are a competition in which each district must give up one random boy and one random girl between the ages of 12 and 18 to fight to the death, and it is televised for the entire nation to see. Collins perfectly weaves this tale, inspired both by her father's time in Iraq and the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. Collins has said that she hopes to educate people on the effects of war through her books.

Assuming *The Hunger Games* movie is anything like the book, it will definitely be worth seeing. The cast is fantastically chosen, including Oscar-nominated Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen. If anything can be derived about the movie



NO LOVESTRUCK VAMPIRES HERE

by its trailer, it is that *The Hunger Games* will be incredible! The movie is sure to be filled with tributes fighting to the death and no sappy this-is-why-I-can't-be-with-you-even-though-I-love-you speech. *Twilight* fans are used to their book being called tween drivel, but fans of *The Hunger Games* do not deserve the same.

For the Love of Art

By **LYDIA FEDERICO, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When making course selections, Art History is often one of the first to be overlooked. A dark room, aided only by the light of a projector bulb, may not seem like the best learning environment. But it simply is. In this Lascaux-esque room of art, we have grown to literally eat, breathed and sleep (jk we don't sleep) art. Yes, indeed, it is difficult, requiring the memorization of hundreds of slides of art per term. But it is much, much more than that.

Art History is the most stimulating

course that I have ever taken at Boston Latin School. In short, it cuts through the trash: for every concept of art we learn about, we encounter countless real-world examples to validate them. Every discussion is fascinating, every project is practical and enlightening and we are never—ever—given busywork, although it is a Herculean task to prepare for the tests that come twice a term. Sure these tests require lots of cramming and memorization, but it is easy enough to stay on top of things, if you use your time wisely and do not procrastinate. The whole class is in the same boat, and we support each other with coffee, study

groups and our own renditions of the art, which can often be found posted on each other's Facebook walls at 2 in the morning on test days.

Before taking Art History, I would have never considered myself to be an "art" person. Honestly, I only signed up for the class because I loved Ms. Freeman. I could have neither distinguished Verrocchio from Masaccio nor told you the difference between Corinthian and Ionic columns. Now I see art everywhere I look, and it is incredible. Never before has a subject been so visible in real life. Now I find that every aspect of my surroundings has influenced or been

influenced by art.

It was not until our trip to New York City that the Art History class became a very tight-knit community. Staring at the most beautiful pieces of art for hours on end is a bonding experience that could make even eHarmony jealous. Our new-found love of art has connected us all from different social circles, backgrounds, grades (Little Ian) and places on the GPA scale. Contrary to popular belief, one definitely does not need to be a snob to love art and excel in the Art History course. All one needs is an open mind and a willingness to learn.

The Rise of the Foodie

By **GERALDINE VITTINI, II**
& **LUCY BURKE, I**
A&E EDITORS

From 2009 through 2011, the "foodie" was in the wastebasket of doomed fads; much like hammer pants and cabbage patch dolls, the "foodie" label was thought to be a mere flash in the pan. The "foodie" label used to belong solely to bored hipsters, who sought to distance gourmet food from the masses with some inaccessible height. The fact that a word like 'foodie' is now acceptable in everyday language, however, is a testament to its durability; being labeled a 'foodie' is now a compliment, instead of a reason to sneer at someone. Describing foods by their "mouthfeel" and arguing ad nauseum about "sustainability" is common fodder for conversation, even among the most un-ironic of demographics, like old ladies at Stop & Stop.

So what does this mean for teenagers who can scarcely afford a Starbucks addiction, much less duck pâté-and-Brie paninis? "Gourmet" food has now



THESE EDAMAME AND PEAR CROSTINI ARE LIKE FOODIE CATNIP

become more accessible to simple folk, who can indulge in expensive-tasting fare on an occasional basis, rather than as a daily meal option. Restaurants which were once identified as overly pretentious "gastropubs" are now run-of-the-mill places that of-

fer the same quality meals at a much lower price. "Foodies" are now regular people like you and me, who eagerly discuss their favorite gourmet foods sans the grandiloquence, but still retaining their former passion. So many of our colleagues (read: broke teenagers) have

held enthusiastic conversations about everything related to eating and food that entire relationships have formed around the mutual love of Bolocco coupons.

While it is true that many of the grating synonyms for foodie do not apply to everyday food lovers—gourmand, connoisseur, epicure, gastronome—they have become much less of a stigma. People go out of their way to appear knowledgeable about food, casually dropping hints that they encountered a "super-rare 1989 oak-cured Chardonnay" for "only 68 dollars," or that they had "such a meaningful conversation with Anthony Bourdain at this micro-fusion French bistro." This unapologetic shamelessness in food name-dropping serves only to distance people away from the wonderful world of stuffing your face. Even though this kind of blasé snobbery still exists in the world, the everyman, woman and child can enjoy "high-class" fare minus the dirty looks from those whose job it is to turn up their noses at McDonald's.

A & E

The Secret World of Arrietty



RETURN TO INNOCENCE

BY **STEPHEN MINOR ZOULALIAN, II**
& **TRINA DO, II**
STAFF WRITER AND CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Secret World of Arrietty, produced by the renowned Studio Ghibli, has successfully captured the childlike sense of wonder that so many animated movies lack today. Similar to Pixar’s animation team, Studio Ghibli has an outstanding track record, with animated films like *Howl’s Moving Castle* and Oscar-winning *Spirited Away*. The movie especially shines with its visuals. The movie’s animation and movement is fluid, and Studio Ghibli has a certain style that is simply beautiful. The ending scene in which Shawn, the sickly male lead, is running through the forest, is some of

the best animation I have ever seen. The movie, however, does fall short in the plot department.

The film, based on the children’s book *The Borrowers*, by Mary Norton, follows roughly the same plot as the novel. Screenwriter Hayao Miyazaki changes the pacing of the film and has also set it in Koganei, Japan. Having read the book before, I would say this is a wonderful interpretation of it. *The Borrowers* (or the fun-sized people as I like to call them) live in the floorboards of a Japanese cottage. They have survived by borrowing necessities, until one day, Arrietty was spotted by Shawn, the frail nephew of the owner of the cottage. Arrietty’s family now has to move because humans only cause trouble in a Borrower’s life.

Arrietty is the adventurous type and befriends Shawn against her parent’s will. This leads to Hara, the evil housekeeper, becoming curious about the fun-sized people living under the floorboards. The crux of the plot focuses on the conflict between the Borrowers and Hara, the stereotypical villain. The plot is quite unsurprising, but the witty dialogue saves it from being a bore. I found myself at times laughing out loud when Arrietty’s father, Pod, and mother, Homily, spoke. Pod and Homily are voiced by real world couple Amy Poehler and Will Arnett, two of the best comedians in Hollywood today. Pod is by far the funniest character in the movie. He is the silent type who only responds with mumbles. The characters are predictable, but that does not take

away from the film’s charm.

I have no complaints against this movie besides the plot. The animation and voice acting are superb. The score also helps add atmosphere to the film when Arrietty is out exploring and borrowing. This movie is a must see for anyone who is a fan of the other Studio Ghibli films, as well as anyone just looking to see a cute animated film, complete with small teacups. This is not a “bro” movie, but an entertaining film that is perfect to see with your boyfriend or girlfriend on a date. *The Secret World of Arrietty* is not a perfect movie and is not on the same scope as the studio’s previous movies, but it is an endearing, warmhearted film that I recommend watching.

Preparing for Prom

BY **LAUREN PALERMO, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Most junior and senior girls started browsing online for prom dresses sometime around the beginning of their junior year (don’t lie!). Girls fantasize about their hair, their makeup, their accessories and, of course, their date. Some buy their dresses as early as January, while others find themselves searching through their own closet as late as the day before, as Lydia Burns (I), did. What is the truly right way to do it?

First there is the cost. No money? No problem. Prom is not until May for juniors and June for seniors, so there is plenty of time to save up some spare change. Do you not feel like shelling out the big bucks for junior (or even senior) prom? Websites like renttherunway.com have hundreds of dresses, short and long, which are worth hundreds and sometimes even thousands of dollars. You can get these dresses sent to your doorstep for as low as forty dollars! They will even send you two sizes if you are not sure. The trick is to run to a department store and to try on something similar to the dress you found online. Sometimes we have to reconsider purchasing the dress when we see how it actually looks on us. You would not want to be stuck with one

that looked gorgeous on the internet but does not fit your style at all. Before buying or renting a dress online, you should be sure to take your measurements carefully. Look at reviews for clues on how the dress fits—is it tight at the waist or hips? Is it clingy or loose-fitting? Is the color different than how it appears on the screen? Jenna Palermo, BLS Alumna from the Class of 2010, knows all too well, “I bought a \$300 Kim Kardashian-inspired dress, in two sizes too big. I’ve yet to sell it on eBay.” She then found the dress she truly wanted on the clearance racks of a department store—so do not count those out!

Sometimes the dress is almost perfect, but it just does not feel quite right. If it does not fit, tailor it! You can head to most local dry cleaners and ask the tailor to alter your dress just the way you want—as long as you bought it. Renters should not try this if they do not want to get hit with a full price tag at the end. If you find a strapless dress you love, but worry about the hassle of pulling it up constantly while dancing all night, find some ribbon that matches your dress and have the seamstress sew straps onto it. Tailoring can be as cheap as twenty dollars, depending on what you want done. Another budget-buster can be hair and makeup—getting these

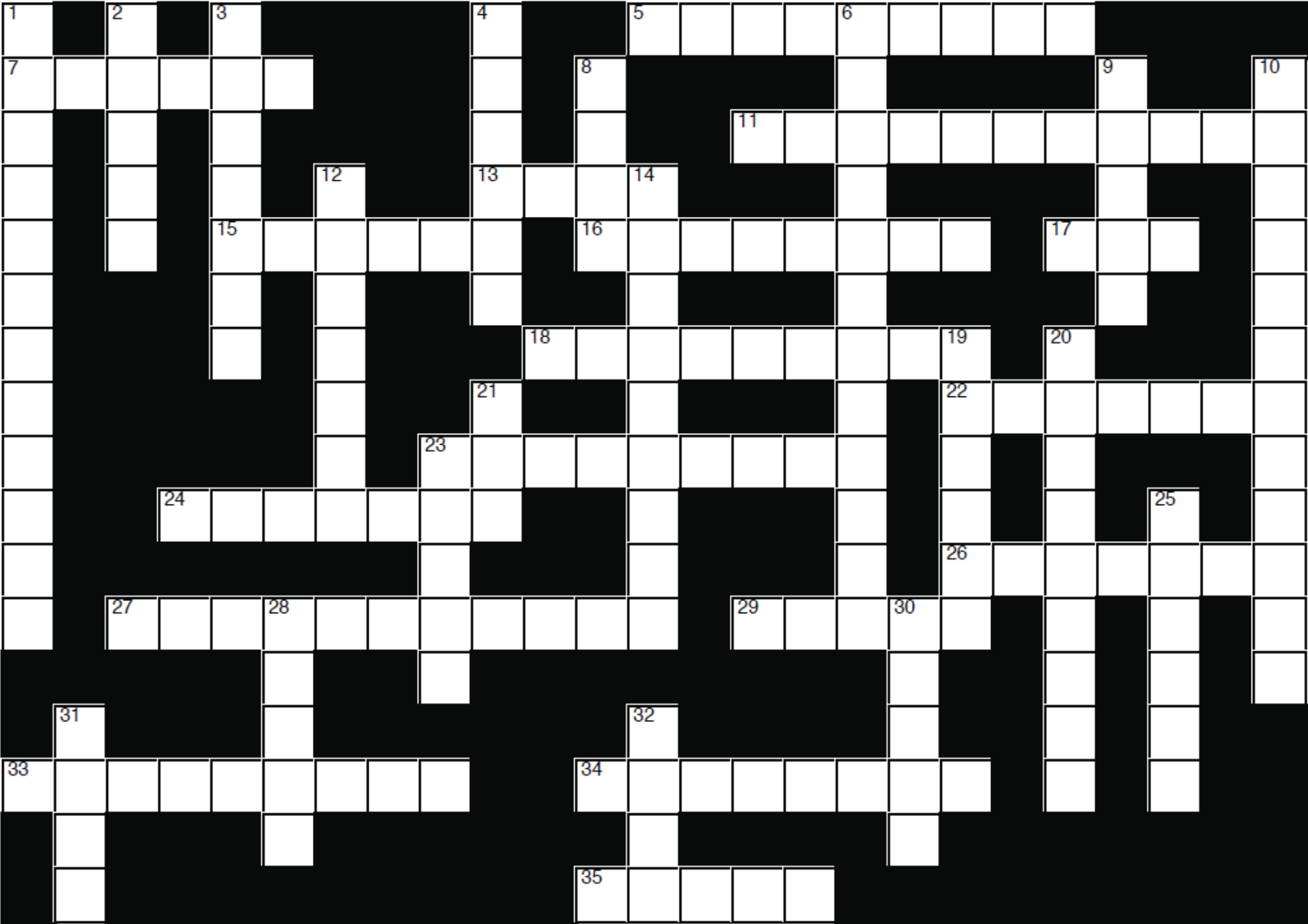


ONE OF THESE COULD BE YOURS!

done professionally raises problems: you are worried about getting to the hair salon on time and how much it is going to cost. Rather than fighting for a hair appointment and a bargain, try paying one of your talented friends to do your makeup and hair. Whether it is someone from Boston Latin School or somewhere

else, we all know that girl who always has her hair and makeup done perfectly. Why not take advantage of that?

BLS prom is getting closer, and for all of the stress it causes, the most important thing is to enjoy yourself and have a good time with friends. The perfect dress is just a bonus.



Across

Down

5. Darth Vader’s ride of choice

7. carbon, in Spanish

11. Mongolian capital

13. February’s least commercialized holiday, ___ Day

15. German Chancellor

16. lover of the Russian queen

17. $\sin^2 x + \cos^2 x = ?$

18. this year’s best picture Oscar winner

22. Weasley’s Wizard ____
23. period falsely named by Mark Twain

24. location of the hanging gardens, a world wonder

26. uncomfortable feeling, Hitchcock film

27. Aaron Carter’s signature hairstyle

29. namesake of the BLS library

33. Temple Run’s Guy ____

34. actress that plays Katniss

35. only said by Jewish grandmothers and Mac Miller
2. loved whale food

3. Dr. Elizabeth Y ____, BLS teacher

4. Wil Ferrell’s funny guy companion

6. number one US cause of death

8. Disney merman film, The Thirteenth____

9. from Georgia to ____, Appalachian Trail

10. Ms. Diamond’s yearly student publication

12. Matthew ____, heir to Downton Abbey
14. what Adele chased at 19

19. coal mining district in The Hunger Games

20. the life BLS wants for its students

21. Knicks sensation

23. Lizzie MaGuire’s best guy pal

25. The Lost ____ of Ravenclaw

28. ____ week, best of the year in television

30. Gretchen can never make this happen

31. ____ Captial, co-founder Romney

32. who Britney wants to hit one more time

Sudokus

Easy

						4		2
		3	6		9	1	5	
9	1	8	4		2	3	6	7
5			9	6	4			
6	8		2			5		
4	7	9	5	8	1	2	3	
3		7		4	6			
	6	4				7		
8				2			1	4

Diabolical

4	1		5					
		5			3			
7				9	2	4		
						8		
5						1	2	
3			9				4	
				7				6
	6			4	1	2		
	5						8	

Spotlight
Conal Lynch



By **JULIA CALDWELL, I**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

In the eighth grade, I squared off against Conal in Sean Kelley’s basement for what was supposed to be a make-believe boxing match. I admit that we were both wearing headgear and gloves, but we figured it was all in good fun. We tapped gloves and started to throw a few shadow punches. Within 45 seconds we were both on the ground, the gloves were off, and I was punching him in the arm as hard as I could while he tried to pry me off. By the end of the night, we were laughing. This incident pretty much sums up my six-year friendship with Conal. However, it wasn’t until I was asked to write his spotlight that I realized just how much I know about Conal—a lot of stuff that you guys probably already know and a lot of stuff that he would never think that would make the school paper. So here goes.

I formally became friends with Conal Fitzgerald Lynch the summer going into seventh grade, which was right around the time his mother finally convinced him to get rid of his racecar bed. As a 4-foot-something, 75-pound sixie with a “Boys Like Girls” song for a ring-back tone, I doubt many people pegged Conal to be the next star athlete to wear a Boston Latin jersey. Six years, 200 pounds and practically 100 goals later, I guess you could say he has done pretty well for himself. As captain of the hockey team, Conal has managed to lead the boys to a league title and another run at the state championship, finally giving this school a reason for another fan bus. With an MVP trophy, a pair of All-Conference team nominations and more All-Star T-shirts than anyone needs, Conal has exceeded what would be expected of a scrawny kid with a taste for punk boy bands.

As if Conal’s athletic abilities are not freakish enough, he also happens to have annoyingly good grades. It will never make sense to me how a kid whose backpack rarely contained more than a pencil and a notebook for five years managed to get straight As, but he somehow pulled it off. Being both a phenomenal hockey player and an exceptional student, Conal has experienced the best of both worlds, epitomizing what it means to be a student athlete and really aggravating anyone who tries to keep up with him.

But the most impressive things about Conal will not be found on any report card or any score sheet. He may be a quiet genius in the classroom and a not so quiet threat on the ice, but he is not too shy to dance with your mother at a graduation party or to sing Tracy Chapman’s “Fast Car” at the top of his lungs in a crowded room. He’s not too cool to leave flowers on your doorstep if he’s asking you to prom or to wait in his car for 20 minutes outside of your house while you try to find your wallet every Saturday. That is what really makes Conal such a great kid, and that is why I am so proud to call him my best friend. #townies

By **RUBY MESSIER, II**
& **DELIA RIDGE CREAMER, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Some question the validity of track and field as a sport. Those people, however, will surely change their minds after being in the middle of a track meet with the smell of competition in the air as the spikes pound the track. It takes daily dedication, long practices and a desire to push your body’s limits by constantly leaving your comfort zone. “It is not a feel-good sport,” Coach Ocean can be heard reminding the team at every track meet.

This new coach, lovingly nicknamed “Coaccean,” has brought her own standards to the team by pushing them to run faster and work harder than most ever have before. Coaccean had helped out in previous seasons, but was made the official coach of the long distance runners this year, bringing her experience (a sub-five-minute mile!) into play. With the combination of new coaching and the excellent support and dedication that Coach Meagher has put in over the years, the team managed to claim

eighth place at Dual County League (DCL) Championships, with many individual triumphs achieved and personal records set. Many runners qualified for States, All-States and some even for Nationals.

The girls’ 4x200 relay consisting of Maggie “Fireball” Hughes (I), Wilhemina Moen (I), Denise Yoon (II) and Kennedy Barnwell (IV) qualified for States as well as Nationals. Individually Hughes qualified for the 55-meter dash, Kennedy for the 300 meter and Moen for the 600 meter, with Moen’s time also qualifying her for All-States. Likewise, the boys’ 4x200 relay, with Kevin “Lightning” Chen (II), Anthony Cheung (II), Michael Sitcawich (II) and Tyler Hallinan (I) ran at States. Chen won second place at the DCL meet, qualifying for Nationals with a time of 6.71 seconds in the 55-meter dash. “I’m looking forward to competing against the best talent in the nation,” Chen exclaims humbly.

Long distance runners made a name for themselves this season with Ava Violich (III) also qualifying for States in the 1000 meter and Michael Stanley “Yelnats” Ward (II) qualifying in four events for States.

Ward placed eleventh in the 1000 with a stunning time of 2:37.

The team’s stamina and times were not the only changes this season; their spirit and team unity improved vastly as well. The unification was largely due to the captains: Ward, Chen, Cheung, Vanya Zvonar (I), Cate Tompkins (I), Moen and Makaela Niles (I), and their commitment to hard work and team spirit. Several people noticed a change in the team’s dynamic, noting more support for teammates and more dedication throughout.

With such a promising season not even over yet, further success can be expected from the Boston Latin School’s Track and Field Team, at both Nationals and in upcoming seasons. “The team came really far this year, and we have a lot of potential for future success with a lot of young talent,” comments Captain Ward. Just wait, you will be hearing much more from this team for years to come.

Congratulations to everyone who qualified for their respective events and to all who participated in this season. Cheers to the future. #RunFast.

All the Way to the Top

By **JAMES BURKE, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Boston Latin School’s Boys’ Basketball Team has made some noise this winter. The team won 17 of 22 games this season, including significant wins over Westford Academy and Danvers High School, which were both top 25 teams according to the ESPN webpage. The Wolfpack even came close to beating long-time Dual County League rival Acton-Boxboro on two occasions. The Wolfpack has exceeded expectations this season with the help of its star-studded lineup including three DCL all-stars and a DCL dunk competition champion. Jack Duggan (I), Savaughn Dinkins (I) and Miles “Franchise” Wright (II) have led the team to this surprising success. These halls have not seen a trifecta of talent like this since the years of Robbie Walton, Chidozie Ibeabuchi and Christian Onuoha. Four years ago these three stars led the team to the State Tournament game. At the time, Robbie and Chidozie were seniors and Christian was a junior. Coincidence? I think not. Does that not look strikingly similar to this year’s team? Although the team four years ago lost in the first round of states, this year’s Wolfpack has a chance to do well in the tournament.

This team has formed a sort of brotherhood this year, like the one there was in the glory days of the past. It seems as though the team has a whole new focus this season; everyone is dedicated, and everyone supports one another. Team members even started sitting at the same lunch table to keep solidarity. Now that is dedication. When you go to a game, you can tell that these guys are passionate about playing and winning. Before every home game, you might hear distant screaming coming from the locker room hallway. That is the sound of the “getting light/ slight work” circle. It is a ritual the team created to help get everybody amped and focused. “Everyone needs to be focused the second their sneakers touch the hardwood. We [are] focused, man, ready to work hard,” says Franchise. Wright is a great example of the dedication to this team. At the beginning of the year, you could tell that he was not comfortable shooting a 15-foot jump shot. He worked and worked on his jump shot and now he can pull that 15-foot jimmy with a de-



TRUONG TAKES IT TO THE HOLE.

fender in his face without even thinking twice. And he’ll hit it too.

The team this year consists of nine seniors, which is an unusually high number of veterans. This has lead to much of the team’s success. “A lot of us have been playing together for a long time, whether it was on freshman, JV or varsity, and we never really reached any type of success. After every loss we would get down on ourselves and it would reflect in the next game. Now that we’re finally winning, it feels great. It’s almost like the light at the end of the tunnel of our high school careers, and after every win our confidence keeps growing, and we grow stronger as a team. I’m proud of these guys,” says Duggan. This team

is set up just like a championship team should be. First, there are three players who can create their own shot or shots for others. Then, we have the big men and rebounders like Mike Wojewodzic (I), Elias “Goat Stackz” Farrow (I), Khari “Chief” Thompson (II) and Zach Louissaint (III). After that we have the 3-point specialists, like Brikeno Fusha (I), Chris Lydon (I) and young gun Adam Mikula (IV). Then you have your lock down defenders and more rebounders, like James “Tha Juice” Adams (I), Minh “Jeremy Minh” Truong (I), Mike Rufo (II) and last but certainly not least Kevin “The Germ” McCann (I). Whether or not they win states, the boys have made a fantastic run this year. Let’s go Wolfpack!

For the Fun of It

By **WILLIAM WALLACE DROSER, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

People do not think of swimming as a team sport. After all, aside from the three relays during each meet, all of the events are individual: one race, one lane, one person.

This is a far cry from the truth of the matter. The truth is, swimming is the sort of sport one cannot do alone. The truth is, it is not just about one race, one lane, or one person. Swimming is in fact a team sport. You are there for each other from the second you leave the diving block to the second you pull yourself, aching and sore, out of the water. You are there for each other not only when you win races, but also when you lose them—especially when you lose them.

The Boston Latin School boys’ swim team knows a lot about losing races. Of the ten meets we swam during this season, we won only two. During my six years on this team, that is the worst record I have ever seen, but it does not matter.

Why? It is simple. To us, the men of the BLS swim team, it is not about winning or losing races or having a good record. It is about having fun. We are supposed to swim for two hours every day, from 3:30 to 5:30 after school. I am not embarrassed to say that we do not usually start swimming until 4:00, and we stop around 5:00. What do we do with all that extra time? Everything we are not supposed to: water basketball, somersaults, jumps off the diving board, splash fights—the list goes on and on.

As much as this may irk Mr. McDonough, I would not have it any other way. When we go to meets, we see the nigh godlike times of swimmers from other schools, but we do not care. We know that those up-and-coming Michael Phelps do not have half the fun we do.

Even our coach, the legendary Bruce Conley, who met me before I was even born, says, “At the end of the day, we’re just here to have fun.”

I have never met a group of guys as comfortable in its mediocrity as the BLS (may I add Varsity?) swim team. That is not to say, however, that everyone on the team is average. In fact, it is far from it. The dolphinesque glory of Captain George Lok (I) as he flies down the lane is a sight to behold. Other names come to mind: Thomas Worthy (III), the young prodigy whose 200 Individual Medley time makes Phelps look like he belongs in the American Association of Retired Persons, the

immensely-gifted-yet-constantly-prone-to-injuring-himself Jackie Liang (II), the up-and-coming talent of Hanyu Ren (IV) and the powerful breaststroke of Captain Isaac Buck (I). These swimmers performed well enough to qualify for States. All three relays—the 200 Medley, the 200 Freestyle and the 400 Freestyle—qualified for States, with a combination of Lok, Worthy, Buck, Kevin Ferstler (I), Jorge Rodriguez (I), Ren and Eddie Lui (I) swimming in those three events.

Additionally, Lok qualified in three individuals and Worthy qualified in four. Atop these successes, the team came in 23rd at States. Once again, we

come back to the fact that what we care about is not how good our swimming is, but rather how well we swim. Believe me, we swim well. To put it in the (PG-rated) words of Rodriguez, a guy I am proud to call my teammate and more importantly, my friend, “I’d rather suck at something and have a ton of fun doing it than be really good but have no fun.”

And so, after six years full of Eddie Lui dances, diabetes jokes and bus rides home, six years of wearing those ridiculous robes to school, six years that have pretty much been the best years of my life, my last season is over. And if any of you readers were wondering, yes, we do wear Speedos.



TIME TO DIVE IN!

Skating to States

By **COLIN MURPHY, I**
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It has been seven years since the Boston Latin Boys’ Hockey Team took the Massachusetts High School Division 2 Hockey Championship back to 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur, and it could easily be coming back this season. After a stellar 14-2-4 season, the Boys’ Hockey Team will begin its journey to the state title against Watertown on February 27. Senior captain Conal Lynch (I) established himself as one of the best players in the state with 32 goals and 14 assists to lead the Wolfpack to one of the best seasons in school history. “This is my senior season. We’re going to do everything we can to make sure we raise a state championship banner,” says Lynch. Lynch has also had a lot of help from his senior teammates, including fellow captain Mike O’Connell (I) (follow him on Twitter: @OCdangles), wheeler and dealer Kevin Cotroni (I), the grind line duo James Bender (I) and Pat DeAngelo (I), James “The Doorman” Torpey (I) and Evan Bemis (I). Having such positive leadership has definitely been a keystone of the success that the team has achieved this season. Torpey adds, “The first day of tryouts I walked into the locker room and looked around at everyone and asked: ‘If you’re not doing it for the boys, then who ya doing it for?’ We’ve really etched that in our heads.”

As amazing as the seniors are, there is plenty of talent coming back for the ‘Pack next season. Goalie Mike Murray

(II) has been a brick wall between the pipes this season with a 1.70 Goals Against Average (GAA) which, if you do not know hockey, is like the number Jesus would put up if he decided to come back to earth.

Forwards Greg Penella (II), Ryan Dougherty (II), Joe Petruziello (II) and Jimmy O’Leary (V) have all showed that they will be able to handle the load that the seniors will leave on them for next season. “Playing next season without all of the seniors is going to be so tough because they’ve done so much for the program. I’m going to peel off a petal from each of the carnations I got this year before every game next season in their memory. I just love them, man,” says the adamant Petruziello.

The nucleus of the Wolfpack’s backline will also be back next season. Brian Forgione (II), CJ Dullea (II), Pat “The Robber” Murray (III) and Conor Moccia (III) have been phenomenal in their goal of not letting the other team score. “We’re really just trying to play good hockey back here. Just wheelin’ and snipin’ all day long,” adds Murray.

There is no doubt that this team has the ability to win a state championship. It will just take consistency and determination, which is what O’Connell has emphasized to his boys, “I just told them that we gotta keep our noses to the grindstone. No excuses; excuses are for the incompetent. They build bridges to nowhere and monuments to nothing.” With leadership like that, the team is certainly ready for a deep run. #rollpack #FTB.

Beginning of a Dynasty

By **ISAAC BUCK, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

I know that the reason why many of you dislike soccer is because we New Englanders have not had much of a team to root for since the Revs’ dynasty in the early 2000s, but hope springs eternal, so do not despair, all you dormant soccer fans. The days of a 5-16-13 season are over. This last place finish was not up to the standard that owner Robert Kraft had come to expect, and so longtime coach Steve Nicol got the boot. And who better to bring in as the new gaffer but Jay Heaps, a stalwart of the proud Revs squads of days past. Heaps made it a priority to re-sign veterans Matt Reis and Shalrie Joseph, but it will still be a very new-looking team that kicks off on March 10 (save the date!). The one benefit for tying for last in the regular season was a strong drafting position for the Revolution. With it, they picked Kelyn Rowe out of University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). This preseason standout (four goals and four assists in five preseason games) along with new additions Saër Sène from German powerhouse Bayern München and Clyde Simms from D.C. United looks to join U.S. National Teamer Benny Feilhaber and 17-year-old prodigy Diego Fagundez in strengthening an attack that was third worst in the league last season. Heaps has set the team’s goal as developing a new style of play centered on possession with Joseph and Simms controlling the middle of the pack. This strategy has worked time and again for some of the giants of the

game, like the current Barcelona team and the Dutch National Team of the 70s and will hopefully bring positive results to New England.

Recently, star power has come to Major League Soccer (MLS) with David Beckham, Landon Donovan and Robbie Keane in Los Angeles and Thierry Henry and Rafa Marquez in New York. Recent transfer rumors include Frank Lampard and Nicolas Anelka possibly coming to America (for those of you who do not know any of these players besides Beckham, trust me, they are famous everywhere outside of the U.S.). The Designated Player Rule, also known as the Beckham Rule, has aided this migration of older European stars to the States. It says that a team can designate three players and not have their salaries count against the team’s salary cap. Despite the success that some teams like New York and L.A. have achieved, New England has resisted the temptation to go for the quick fix with high-powered foreign players. Sticking with homegrown players (Fagundez), making smart, low profile acquisitions (Sène and Simms) and retaining important veterans (Reis and Joseph) has led to a team with strong chemistry, which is vital in soccer. Knowing what your teammates will do, how they will do it and when they will do it is what enables a team to achieve prolonged success. This team has the right mix of young skill and veteran experience to build another New England dynasty. To all of you who refuse to support a soccer team, just think about it as another opportunity to beat L.A.